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MOTOR RACING 45
Wheels of fortune still turning for playboy of the track

THE TIMES 35P

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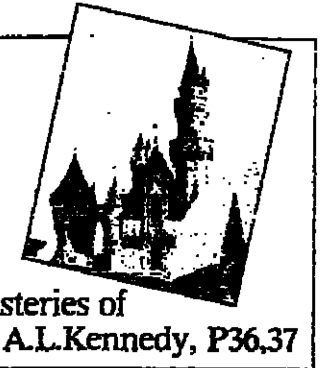

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BEST FOR JOBS

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SECTION 3

Branson ponders future flights after engineer saves crew

Ritchie: "I only did what I had to do"

By Andrew Pierce

RICHARD BRANSON will return to Britain and his family today after the near-fatal collapse of his attempt to be the first man to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon.

The latest brush with death for the 46-year-old millionaire entrepreneur has badly shaken his confidence and has put a big question mark over any planned future daredevil adventures.

Mr Branson said that Alex Ritchie, the expedition engineer, saved their lives by clambering onto the roof of the capsule at 10,000ft to jettison a fuel tank. His action saved the craft from being dashed against mountains after what was described as a terrifying roller-coaster ride.

Mr Ritchie said: "I crawled out on the capsule top and sorted it out. All I took with me was a parachute and some straps so I could be lashed to the top of the capsule. It's all a blur. I only did what I had to do."

Mr Branson added: "I remember, when things were going wrong, thinking to myself: 'If I ever get out of this alive, never again.' But one soon forgets about that. I shall obviously have to talk it over with my family."

He delayed his arrival in Britain so that he could thank representatives of the Algerian Government in person for their co-operation and help in rescuing the *Virgin Global Challenger* crew from their desert landing near the Bechar military base in the northwest of the country.

Mr Branson and his fellow crew members, Per Lindstrand, also 46, and Mr Ritchie, 52, were driven from their grounded capsule by a senior local politician who lives near the military base.

They were guests at his home where they rested before flying to Algiers where they were due to meet senior officials of the Algerian Government. They were flown in the Cessna jet that had been due to track the *Challenger's* progress in its planned 18-day voyage around the globe.

A spokesman for the *Virgin Challenger* operation said last night: "The Algerian Government did everything in its power to ensure the crew were made as comfortable as possible and to ease their return to Britain. Richard wanted to express his personal gratitude to the Algerian Government."

When Mr Branson returns, he will go to a press conference at the *Global Challenger's* London communications centre. But he is unlikely to disclose the answer to the question everyone is asking: will he return to Morocco for a third time to try to recreate the global race?

Mr Branson, speaking on the telephone from Algeria, said: "I need to talk to my family before I make any decision. There has to be a lot of discussion. There are many things I will need to take into consideration. I will not make the decision on my own."

His wife, Joan, is unlikely to leave him in much doubt about her view. She expressed serious worries about the global challenge, which can only have been reinforced by the near-disastrous outcome.

Fight for life, page 9

Keegan was forced to go by bankers

By Jason Nissé, Assistant Business Editor

KEVIN KEEGAN resigned as manager of Newcastle United yesterday after bankers forced his hand to allow the club's £150 million stock market flotation to go ahead smoothly.

The former England captain had twice threatened to step down — once last summer and again before Christmas — and each time he was dissuaded. But NatWest Markets, the merchant bank backing the flotation, told the club at a secret meeting in Leeds on Tuesday that if Keegan really wanted to go, he must go now.

The bankers said that the club should not risk his departure while its shares were being marketed in the City. It would also have to disclose in the flotation prospectus that Keegan had said he might quit, or face the prospect of legal action.

After the meeting, Keegan was told that if he intended to resign, he would have to do so straight away — so ending a five-year reign that took Newcastle from the bottom of the old second division to the top of the Premiership. Yesterday Keegan said in a statement: "It was my decision and my decision alone. I offered my resignation at the end of last season but was persuaded by the board to stay. I feel I have taken the club as far as I can and that it would be in the best interests of all concerned if I resigned."

By doing so, he has almost certainly given up a "fat cat" bonus when the club is floated. Recent share issues for Sheffield United and Sunderland have given the team managers share options — and Peter Reid at Sunderland holds shares worth £2.8 million.

NatWest, whose chief executive, Derek Wanless, is a lifelong Newcastle fan, said that the float would go ahead as planned, with an announcement next week. But it will do with neither of Newcastle's driving forces on board: the chairman Sir John Hall is also set to resign, probably to be replaced by a leading Northeast businessman. Sir John was said to be out of the country on holiday yesterday and no date has been given for his return.

Keegan's departure sent fans flocking to St James's Park in their hundreds. Many were in tears, others chanted the manager's name and others unfurled a banner reading: "Please stay Kevin — we all believe in you. Please don't go."

Les Russell, the Lord Mayor, said: "This is a black day for Newcastle. I join hundreds of thousands of fans in deeply regretting Kevin's painful decision. I hope he will reconsider."

John Regan, secretary of Newcastle United Independent Supporters' Association, said: "It's dreadful news. It's worse than hearing that the Queen has died. Not everyone on Tyneside is a monarchist, but everyone is a Keeganite. Keegan brought pride back to Newcastle, the people of Tynesdie worship him. What he has achieved in the last five years is nothing short of remarkable — and he was the man to lead us to further success."

Victoria Rickaby, a 16-year-old drama student, agreed. "How can Kevin Keegan leave us? He is God around here. He is even bigger than God. He is the life of Newcastle. People name their children after him — there are even dogs named after him."

Even Tony Blair joined the tributes, saying: "He's a great guy and it's a great shame."

The gloom surrounding St James's Park yesterday was in sharp contrast to the euphoria that surrounded the £15 million signing of Alan Shearer last year. That capped a £60 million spending spree that brought the fans and success to Newcastle, but no trophies.

Keegan, 45, first offered his resignation after his team's 12-point lead at the top of the Premiership was overhauled by Manchester United, but the board told him to stay.

Sir John nevertheless issued a thinly-veiled warning that Newcastle must win something this year, and although Shearer's arrival lifted spirits for a while, the team began to wobble before Christmas and Keegan again offered to go. He was again persuaded to change his mind — this time by Sir John's son, Douglas, who is also a board member — and Newcastle promptly beat Tottenham 7-1.

Yesterday, however, Keegan was nowhere to be seen and his team was being run by his deputy Terry McDermott and coach Arthur Cox. McDermott said: "Kevin wants to pursue other fields outside football and good luck to him. Only Kevin can say whether he will ever come back into football. He certainly won't in the near future, I can guarantee that. My gut feeling is that he probably won't get back into football again. But you can never say never.

"There has been mention of mental illness, or some kind of sickness but that could not be further from the truth. He beat me at head tennis on Friday so he certainly wasn't ill. He simply wants to do other things outside of football."

Inevitably, there was a wave of speculation as to who would take over at St James's Park. Kenny Dalglish, who took over Keegan's number seven shirt at Liverpool, is a hot favourite — but he also resigned in the midst of a title race when manager of Liverpool. Another former Liverpool player, John Toshack, is also a strong contender, having just resigned at Spanish team Deportivo la Coruña.

Ruffled feathers, page 5
Management stress, page 42
Rob Hughes, page 44

MIKE SCUTT

Under pressure: Newcastle's plans for stock market flotation meant Keegan had to decide whether to carry out threats to resign as manager

Poll climbdown by Milosevic

President Milosevic conceded yesterday that an opposition coalition had won municipal elections in Serbia's second largest city.

Nis was one of 15 areas where Milosevic's Socialist Party annulled election victories by the opposition Zajedno coalition. The decision resulted in a wave of pro-democracy street protests, now in their eighth week.

The Serbian Government's decision followed a justice ministry inquiry.

Rebel radio, page 12

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Pneumonia puts Yeltsin in hospital

From Robin Lodge in Moscow

PRESIDENT Yeltsin was taken to hospital suffering from pneumonia last night, two weeks after returning to work following major heart surgery.

The Russian leader, who took to his bed earlier this week, had cancelled official engagements when doctors said he had a mild fever and influenza symptoms.

A brief statement issued by his press service last night said medical staff had decided to hospitalize the 65-year-old president for several days after a routine examination.

Mr Yeltsin underwent a quintuple cardiac bypass operation on November 5 after suffering at least two heart attacks within 18 months. He returned to work at the Kremlin just before Christmas.

Renat Akchurin, the surgeon who led the Russian operating team, said there was no connection between the President's illness and his heart condition.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, took over the country's daily administration during Mr Yeltsin's operation.

Blair set to rule out a top tax rate of 50p

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR has ruled out a 50p top rate of tax to reassure voters that a Labour government will not penalise the better off to pay for costly spending programmes.

Both Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, insisted yesterday that they had no hidden spending commitments and no secret tax plans as the Labour leader laid claim to the centre ground of politics.

Although Mr Blair did not go as far as personally ruling out a 50p rate yesterday, party sources said he and Mr Brown had settled their differences and agreed not to raise the existing 40p band for top taxpayers. An announcement formally ruling out a 50p top rate will be made in the next few weeks, they said.

Mr Blair said yesterday: "There is no single spending commitment that requires an increase in personal taxation."

Brandishing a new document which lays out Labour's plans for government as he launched his party's pre-election campaign, he said: "The programme we have got is all properly costed and funded."

Showing signs that he has been rattled by Tory jibes of Labour's hidden spending commitments costing up to £30 billion, he added: "There are no uncosted or unfunded spending proposals, no concealed tax increases.

"Where we plan to spend money, we say where it comes from. There is no evasion, no double dealing, no hidden agenda," he declared."

But Mr Blair also hinted that his party's plans for a 10p starting rate of tax were now no more than an aspiration, which was unlikely to be achieved in a first year of a Labour government.

Mr Brown confirmed that he would set out all his proposed tax rates before the general election manifesto so that voters knew exactly how much tax they would have to pay under a Labour government.

The only spending commitments were Labour's £3 billion programme to get 250,000 unemployed youngsters back into work. Other programmes would be funded by redeploying existing resources, he said.

Mr Brown, who had been pressing for a new top rate of tax last autumn, will make three keynote speeches on the economy within the next six weeks starting on January 20, where he is expected to spell out tax details.

While he may propose measures to close tax loopholes and raise revenue through other means, he made clear yesterday that he would not propose rises in VAT. "We have no wish to increase VAT," he said.

Mr Blair's refusal to publicly rule out a 50p rate prompted speculation that Mr Brown was still resisting the move. It is known that the Shadow Chancellor had been unhappy about some aspects leading up to yesterday's presentation.

Party sources suggested that Mr Blair was anxious to get as much mileage as possible out of the decision by staging the announcement over several weeks to maximise favourable headlines.

The decision not to proceed with a 50p top rate of tax follows a bitter struggle within

Continued on page 2, col 6

Peter Riddell, page 2

Knife attack by boy of 10 on woman

By Michael Horsnell

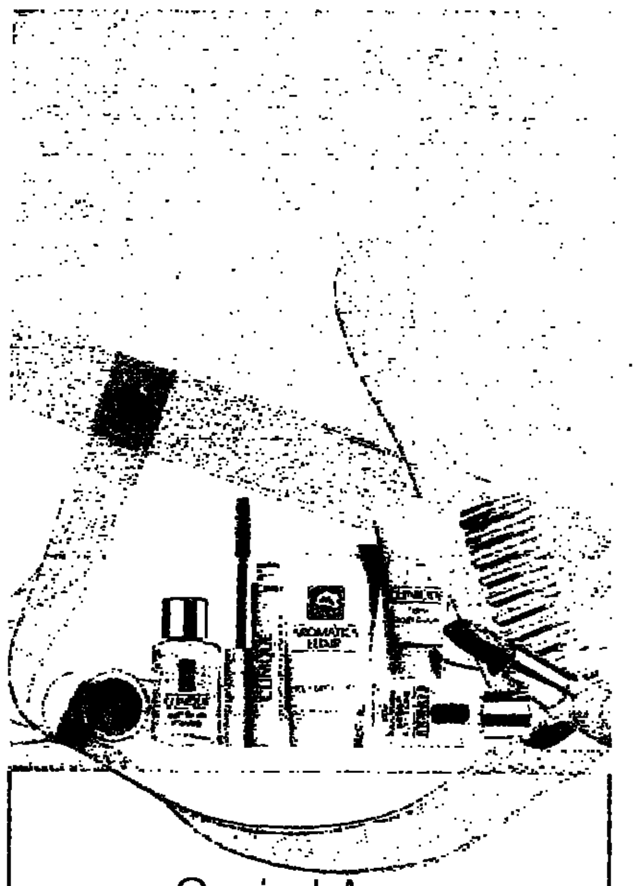
A 10-YEAR-OLD boy was arrested yesterday after an argument outside a primary school in which a woman's eye was pierced by a kitchen knife. Detectives said the woman, who had internal stitches to the eye, was fortunate not to have been blinded.

The incident occurred in the street outside Lakeside primary school, Doncaster. The woman, aged 32, had approached the boy on Tuesday after her son of nine complained that the boy had assaulted him.

An argument followed in which the boy allegedly picked up a piece of wood and hit her on the neck and chest, said Inspector Paul Cropley.

Two other mothers wrestled the wood from the boy. He ran off, only to return with a knife from the kitchen of a nearby house.

Insp Cropley said: "As he came towards the group another woman tied a jumper around her arm to stop him and try to get the knife off him. It was thrown towards the woman with whom the boy had earlier argued and it hit her in the left eye."



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Gummer bans wildfowling as cold snap persists

■ A two-week ban on shooting birds is designed to help them survive the freezing conditions, which are also threatening fish and frogs in icy ponds. Michael Hornsby and Michael Horsnell report

THE Government is to impose a two-week ban on the shooting of ducks, geese and other wildfowl from tomorrow to help birds survive the cold weather.

As the chill persisted, animal welfare groups said that goldfish and frogs could die from lack of oxygen in frozen garden ponds. The shallowness of garden ponds could be a threat to ornamental species, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said.

"The best way of helping the fish is to melt a hole in the ice by placing a pan of hot water gently on the surface," Charlotte Morrissey, of the RSPCA, said. "It is important to *avoid breaking the ice as chunks* can break off and damage the fish."

Jim Foster, of the charity Frog Life, said: "We expect to get quite a few reports of frog deaths. The main threat is to adult males which hibernate in the mud at the bottom of ponds and will run out of oxygen and die within five days if ponds are frozen over."

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, signed the order banning wildfowl shooting yesterday under a procedure triggered when there have been 13 consecutive days of frozen or snow-covered ground. The birds protected are: mallard, teal, wigeon, pintail, tufted duck, pochard, shoveler, gadwall, goldeneye, pinkfooted geese, greylag geese, Canada geese, whitefronted geese, golden plover, woodcock, snipe, coot and moorhen.

Frozen water and ground in the estuaries and marshy habitats are *severely hampering their ability to* find food. Many birds are so weakened they may not survive the winter even if spared death by shooting.

Mr Gummer decided to act after consulting the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, representing government wildlife agencies, and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, the voice of the shooting lobby. About 20,000 wildfowlers will be affected by the ban.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds welcomed the ban and appealed to the public to avoid disturbing flocks of wild birds. "*When the birds are so tired, the* main risk is not so much death by shooting as the extra energy the birds expend when flying round after being disturbed by the shooters and their guns." Mike Everett, a spokesman, said. The RSPB said householders could help by putting out suitable food in the early morning and again in the afternoon. Fatty foods are best to provide energy.

"Grated cheese is a favourite with robins and can help small birds like wrens, while fat-rich peanuts in hanging feeders will attract tits, finches and sparrows," *the RSPB said.* "Pastry is popular and shredded suet will be eaten by a variety of birds."

The Swan Lifeline charity at Eton Wick, in Berkshire, is looking after swans rescued from parts of the Thames that have frozen. Wendy Gray, a volunteer helper, said: "Some swans get frozen into the ice overnight and cannot move their legs.

"We *bring them* in and keep them here for a couple of days, feeding them up if necessary. Generally, however, swans are good at resisting the cold."

Pat Morris, chairman of the Mammal Society, said that if the *cold lasted for several weeks* squirrels and small aquatic animals such as water voles could come under pressure. "If water is frozen, voles cannot dive to escape predators such as mink or easily get at food locked up in the ice," he said.

"Squirrels will find it hard to dig up buried stores of acorns if the ground is frozen."

But hibernating mammals such *as dormice*, hedgehogs and bats will benefit from the big freeze, according to Dr Morris, because consistently cold weather lowers their *metabolic rate, enabling them* to conserve fat supplies. Foxes will also not mind the cold because they will find water birds in particular easier to catch.

The National Grid reported an all-time record peak demand of *49,730 megawatts on* Tuesday night. Weather conditions were less severe than over Christmas and the New Year, but demand was lower then because of the seasonal shutdown of industry.

John Tomlinson, the company's *power system* control manager, said: "Industry was back to full operation following the holiday period and we predicted what has turned out to be the highest ever demand, and met it with generation to spare."

Fifty-seven power stations helped to meet the needs of more than 20 million customers. Electricity was also supplied from Scotland and France.

The Department of Social Security said that cold weather payments had topped £33 million since the cold spell began, involving more than four million payments, a record number.

Fears that the partial thaw which occurred on Monday might cancel out payments this week were dispelled by the department which said that payments are based on a weekly average temperature set at 0C or below.

The London Weather Centre said that temperatures will remain below freezing today in the South, rising to 3-4C in the far north, as *easterly winds from central Europe* persist. Light snowfalls are expected in many areas.

Forecast, page 22

European court fines rebound on Major

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN and other members of the European Union are to face heavy fines if they disobey the European Court of Justice. Under a sliding scale, Britain could be required to pay up to £430,000 a day for defying the court while Germany and France *would face a higher* maximum penalty.

The procedure, agreed by the European Commission yesterday, prompted anger from Conservative Eurosceptics although it merely completed machinery created on British demand during negotiations for the Maastricht treaty in 1991.

At *that time*, John Major wanted to give the court power to ensure that recalcitrant member states could not get *away with flouting EU rules.*

So far the system, provided under article 171 of the treaty, has not been invoked as national sensitivities among member states caused the Commission to move slowly in drawing up the penalty formula.

The *Commission's effective* go-ahead for the fines is an embarrassment for the British Government as it is now seeking, alone in Europe, to rein in the powers of the Luxembourg court at the present review of the Maastricht treaty. David Heathcoat-Amory, the former Tory minister who resigned over Europe last year, said the notion of introducing fines for breaches of regulations was promoted by the Government *with the aim of deterring* further regulation-making, and of securing proper enforcement. "But we now have just as many rules, and the fines idea is rather rebounding on us. We will face these fines for quite often technical breaches of the rules."

John Redwood, the former Tory leadership challenger, *said: "Swingeing new fines* of up to £3 million a week can now be imposed on Britain by the European court if it disagrees *with what we* are doing. This shows why we should not give the Commission any more power to control and monitor our economy."

The fines will not be retroactive. Officials expect the system to be introduced within weeks. The immediate target will be Germany and Italy, which are at odds with rulings on environmental protection.

The environment and the single market are likely to be *the main areas in which fines* will be sought. Germany has ignored court rulings on ground water, surface water and bird protection and there are two pending cases in which Italy has ignored legislation on waste disposal. No cases are immediately pending against Britain, which has one of the best records among member states in implementing EU legislation.

Under the system, the Commission will be able to apply to the court to impose a fine against a state that disobeys a judgment against it. The Luxembourg judges will have the final say on the size of the penalty, but they are expected to apply the scale devised by the Commission. This starts with a basic fine of £400 a day, which will be multiplied by factors to account for the gravity of the breach, the length of time it has lasted and the relative wealth of the state.

Britain would face a minimum daily fine of £72,000. *France and Germany, which* have bigger economies, face higher fines while Italy will pay slightly less. It will take about a year for the court to fix a fine after application by the Commission.

Sir George: he called John Major a dummy

New move to unseat sceptic

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE veteran Euro-sceptic Sir George Gardiner is facing fresh calls from within his local Tory association to stand down at the next election. A motion of no confidence in the Reigate MP has been tabled amid renewed accusations that he has been disloyal to John Major.

More than 120 local Tories wrote last week to the association demanding a special meeting after Sir George attacked the Prime Minister in a newspaper article before Christmas. Reigate's executive council will meet tonight and is likely to fix *a date of January 30.*

Sir George saw off a deselection threat last June when he won the support of 311 members to 206 to remain their candidate. But some local Tories believe he has broken a promise made then to remain loyal.

In the *Sunday Express* article, Sir George described the Prime Minister as a "ventriloquist's dummy" to Kenneth *Clarke, the Chancellor.*

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CHRIS HARRIS

Tony Blair tells the press yesterday that Labour has captured the centre ground

Blair

Continued from page 1

the shadow cabinet about the principle of fairer taxation.

Mr Blair has consistently argued that a rise in the top rate of tax *could* prove electorally suicidal while other measures, such as reducing tax reliefs — which could bring in the same revenue — would be more palatable.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, has been among those arguing for the need to tax the wealthy more heavily to give more to poorer groups, *but the 50p tax rate* would only have brought in about £1 billion.

Earlier Mr Blair insisted that his party now successfully occupied the centre ground of politics following a transformation in its ideology and culture.

As the battle lines were drawn for the unofficial election campaign, the Labour leader urged the Prime Minister to stop "faffing about" and call a general election. Contrasting Mr Major's failure to hold his party together with his own successful leadership Mr Blair said: "To the British people I say: in uncertain times Britain cannot afford an uncertain Prime Minister and Britain cannot afford as its Government a party incapable of being led."

But the Tories were quick to *stamp on suggestions that* Labour would go into the next election with no tax or spending rises.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, told reporters that Labour had failed to publish its detailed tax plans, its national minimum wage, its growth or inflation target.

"Mr Blair has concealed the details of how his policies will work. He won't even answer the basic economic questions. He's trying to con you. That *isn't leadership,*" Dr Mawhinney said.

Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, rounded on *the* two main parties.

"This election campaign has got to be put back on to a positive footing, with the leaders having an intelligent discussion about policy," he said.

Fine, but how will Labour meet even the Tory spending targets?

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

LABOUR is trying to reconcile two potentially incompatible pledges — that it can make a real difference, and that its plans need not mean any increase in personal taxes. Yesterday's launch was better at establishing broad campaign themes than in answering this predicament.

Campaign documents are often regarded as just partisan propaganda and therefore ignored. But yesterday's 19-page *Leading Britain into the Future* deserves more serious treatment. It is largely the product of Tony Blair's own pen, written during his Christmas holiday in Ireland, and it is revealing about Labour's approach. There is no reference to socialism anywhere. Instead, it says: "New Labour is firmly rooted in the centre ground of British politics, and *so are our policies.*"

Several times, it scorns an ideological approach and presents Labour as "the practical party" drawing ideas from the "so-called" Left and Right. The document, the Union Flag patriotically waving on the front, talks of seeking "the broadest possible support" and "reaching out" to people of all parties. Each page has a little inset proclaiming "the battleground" with four main points: "The future not the past . .fs2. For the many, not the few . .fs2. Strong leadership not drift . .fs2. Education is our number one priority."

Mr Blair was in self-confident form yesterday. As he said: "For the first time in a generation, Labour goes into a general election with real confidence". But can that be translated into successful government? Labour is at pains to present itself as responsible, resisting "unreasonable public sector pay demands", making *Bank of England decisions* on monetary policy more accountable and free from short-term political manipulation, and claiming there are no uncosted or unfunded spending proposals and no concealed tax rises. The Tories have raised valid questions about the financing of Labour's early pledges on reducing class sizes, cutting hospital waiting lists and getting 250,000 under-25s into work. Will sufficient money be available, and how much relies on one-off devices? But, in general, claims about vast, £30 billion spending commitments are ludicrously over the top. The real issue is different: the Tories have been able to contain the overall level of spending and taxes, as Labour seeks to do, by cutting some programmes to finance the inevitable upward pressures in health, education and social security. Financing these *existing* commitments, not *additional ones, is the key.*

Labour has opposed most of the Tory expenditure savings — on changing unemployment and sickness benefits, compulsory competitive tendering and increasing private provision. But without such measures, spending and taxes would be higher. Labour's answers yesterday were unconvincing. Welfare reform and reducing the present fifth of households where no one is earning may produce savings in the long-term, as may a switch from student grants to loans. They will not be sufficient in the short-term.

Labour is caught in a defensive trap, narrowing its options by denying any plans to raise taxes that might lose votes, while brushing aside unavoidable increases in existing spending programmes. In this respect, the endlessly discussed question of a higher top rate of income tax is, while very important symbolically, largely irrelevant to the overall fiscal and economic picture. The reality, denied by Labour and the Tories, is that any post-election Chancellor will face difficult decisions on trimming spending programmes and raising taxes.

PETER RIDDELL

Ulster security increased after IRA attacks police

Security throughout Northern Ireland was stepped up last night to its highest level since the IRA ceasefire was declared in 1994 as troops reinforced police patrols and *security barriers were closed in towns across the Province.* The move followed an IRA mortar attack on a police patrol in the nationalist Shantallow area of Londonderry on Tuesday night.

☐ *Paddy Ward*, a former republican terrorist who fled to Canada after defying the leadership of the Irish National Liberation Army, has been deported to London by a Toronto court. Ward claimed his life would be in danger if he returned home.

Inquiry into HMSO sale

A formal inquiry into the £54 million sale of part of Her Majesty's Stationery Office is to be carried out by the National Audit Office. Concern about October's sale has dwelt on the price secured by a consortium run by Electra Fleming, and headed by Rupert Pennant-Rea, the former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. The inquiry will study the chaotic state of HMSO accounts before the sale.

Half adults are poor readers

Almost half the adults in Britain lack the reading skills necessary to use a bus timetable or to follow instructions to assemble a bicycle, an international report is expected to say *later in the year. The research was* carried out by the Office for National Statistics several months ago but the results will not be published until next summer. Labour demanding that the information be published before the election.

Minister's house invaded

***Ten Newbury bypass protesters* were arrested after they dug up the garden of Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, to build a mock road. About 20 demonstrators marked the first anniversary of the protest by invading Sir George's home in Cookham, *Berkshire.* Some climbed on to the roof and unfurled banners protesting against government transport policies.**

Overture for opera school

The foundation stone for Scotland's first opera school has been laid in Glasgow. The *Alexander Gibson School* will be based at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and is due to open at the end of the year to coincide with the academy's 150th anniversary. At the ceremony, Dr Philip Ledger, the new school's principal, said it would provide a "splendid home for our opera students".

Threat to safari park cats

A safari park's big cats may be put to sleep after a court decided to wind up the company that owns it. The threat to 30 lions and tigers at Causeway Safari Park, near Ballymoney, Co Antrim, came after the decision in the High Court in Belfast, following a petition from Customs and Excise for non-payment of VAT. The failure of the IRA's ceasefire has been cited as keeping tourists away.

Train poetry back on track

Poems are to be reintroduced in commuter trains in Dublin after a campaign by the pressure group Poetry in Motion. Verse first appeared in carriages ten years ago but lapsed last year with the sale of the Dublin Area Rapid Transport company's advertising franchise. Space will be set aside in a section of all carriages for works by *international and Irish writers.*

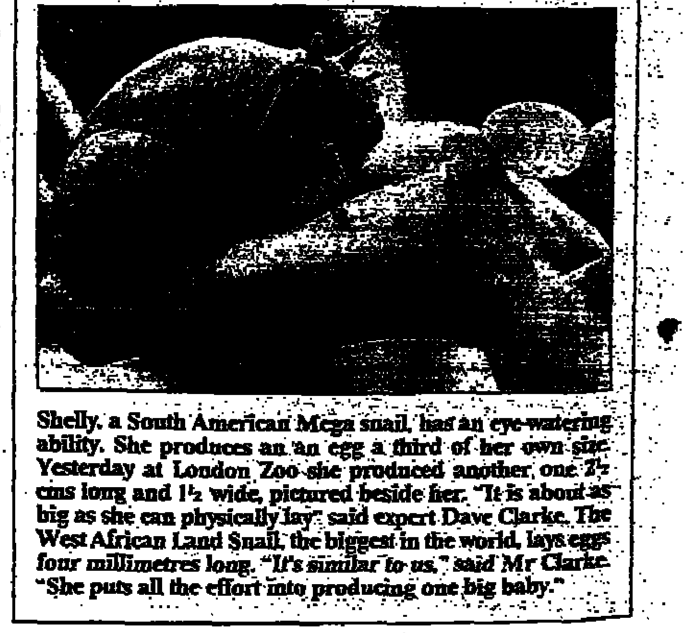
Hearing over war crimes

The first man to face prosecution in Britain for alleged atrocities committed in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe during the war appeared at the Old Bailey yesterday for a pre-trial hearing before Mr Justice Potts. Szymon Serafinowicz, 86, is accused of killing three unknown Jews in Belorussia between November 1941 and March 1942. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Queen honours The Globe

The Queen will attend a celebration to mark the completion of The Globe theatre this summer, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. *She and the Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of* the Shakespeare Globe Trust, will see a performance of Triumphes and Mirth on June 12 that will be the highlight of a two-week festival. *Sir Michael Perry,* chairman of the trust, said: "We are extremely honoured and thrilled."

Snail produces mega egg



Shelly, a South American Mega snail, has an eye-watering ability. She produces an an egg a third of her own size. Yesterday at London Zoo she produced another, one 7½ cms long and 1½ wide, pictured beside her. "It is about as big as she can physically lay" said expert Dave Clarke. The West African Land Snail, the biggest in the world, lays eggs *four millimetres long. "It's similar to us," said* Mr Clarke. "She puts all the effort into producing one big baby."

Vaccine offers hope in fight against malaria

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A VACCINE designed to protect against malaria has passed its first test with distinction. Six out of seven volunteers given the vaccine, developed by SmithKline Beecham, were protected against the bites of infected *mosquitoes, whereas all those in a* control group developed the disease.

Malaria remains one of the world's greatest killers, claiming several million *victims a year. Previous attempts* to develop a vaccine have proved only a limited success, and none has yet been able to control infections in Africa, where most of the sufferers are.

The trial of the new vaccine is reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by scientists from SmithKline Beecham and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington DC. It involved three *groups of volunteers who were given* different formulations of an experimental vaccine, and a control group who were left unprotected.

They were then exposed to the bites of mosquitoes carrying the parasite that passes on the infection. In the group which received the most complex formulation of the vaccine, six out of seven were protected. In groups given less complex formulations, only slight *protection against infection was* observed

Yesterday SmithKline Beecham said that this is the first time that an *experimental* vaccine with scope for further development has achieved a high degree of protection against the malaria parasite. The vaccine is based on a protein that lies on the surface of the parasite's cells: such proteins vary greatly in different areas, so a practical vaccine may need to include other proteins as well.

A series of clinical trials, including a field trial in West Africa, are to begin in *the next few months to test the vaccine* more widely. Every year 300-500 million people catch malaria, the great majority in sub-Saharan Africa. The disease causes between 1.5 and 2.7 million deaths every year, most among children. Cases in Britain are rare, but not unknown, occuring among travellers who have visited malaria-prone areas.

صورة من الأصل

Tribunal hears race bias claim

Scots and English clash in a legal Bannockburn

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE spirits of Bannockburn, Flora Macdonald and Robert Burns were evoked at an Edinburgh tribunal yesterday to show that the Scots are fundamentally different from the English.

The case is being brought by one of Scotland's top policemen, Graham Power, 49, the Yorkshire-born Deputy Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police. He claims that he was left off the shortlist for the post of Chief Constable in the Northern Constabulary, based at Inverness, because he is English.

The Northern Joint Police Board denies discrimination. At a preliminary hearing by an industrial tribunal yesterday, the board's counsel argued that the case could not be brought under the the Race Relations Act because Scots and English have the same national and ethnic origins.

Peter Grant-Hutchinson, a Scottish advocate for the board, said that few Scots nowadays would agree with a 1972 House of Lords ruling by Lord Simon of Glaisdale: "The Scots are a nation because of Bannockburn and Flodden, Culloden and the pipes at Lucknow, because of Jenny Geddes and Flora Macdonald, because of frugal living and respect for learning, because of Robert Burns and Walter Scott.

"So, too, the English are a nation because Norman, Angevin and Tudor monarchs forged themselves, because their land is mostly sea-girt, because of the common law and of gifts for poetry and parliamentary government, because despite the Wars of the Roses and Old Trafford and Headingley, Yorkshireman and Lancastrian feel more in common than in difference and are even prepared at a pinch to extend their sense of community to southern folk."

Mr Grant-Hutchinson argued that because Scots and English are British citizens, the case could not be brought. He said that a shared pride in the National Health Service, the welfare state and the events of the Second World War bound Scots and English together and were more important than separate histories prior to the Act of Union or national football teams.

"It would be going far too far to suggest that England and Scotland have different racial origins. That is not what the 1976 Act intended," he said.

Karon Monaghan, an English barrister appointed by the Commission for Racial Equality, which is backing Mr Power, said that Lord Simon's ruling stood. She quoted him as saying: "By the Act of Union, English and Scots lost their separate nationalities, but they retained their separate nationhood and their descendants have thereby retained their national origins."

Ms Monaghan said: "These days judges have race awareness training and are unlikely to use the stereotypes used by Lord Simon. But the House of Lords sensed a difference between the Scots and the English, the Scots and the English sense a difference and there is not a single legal authority which differentiates from that view."

Miss Monaghan said the Act defined discrimination as treating someone differently from others because of race, ethnic or national origins. Although Scots and English shared a common citizenship, they had different national origins and discrimination on these grounds was covered by the 1976 Act.

She quoted a Lords ruling in 1983 by Lord Fraser of Tullybelton that for a group to be considered an ethnic group under the Race Relations Act, a community must regard itself, and be regarded by others, as having a long-shared history distinguishing it from other groups and a cultural tradition of its own. It could also have in common a geographical origin, language, literature or religion, or it could be a minority oppressed or dominant within a larger community.

Ms Monaghan argued that the Scots had a shared history different from that of the English and a separate cultural tradition. "We don't celebrate hogmanay or Burns Night, and you may not enjoy Morris dancing or May Day as much as the English," she told the tribunal.

She said it was even possible that the Scots could be construed as an oppressed minority. "You get a government you don't vote for and after last night, a monarchy which you don't want."

Spencer Patrick, chairman of the tribunal board, said that the three panel members had already agreed that Scots could discriminate against English and vice versa. The hearing was to determine whether such discrimination was covered by the Act.

A ruling on the issue would be given as soon as possible, Mr Patrick said. If the panel decides that the Act does cover relations between the Scots and English, Mr Power's case will be heard at a later date.

A case brought by Graham Power, left, an Englishman seeking a chief constable's post in Scotland, was haunted by the spirits of Macdonald and Burns

Lord Borthwick, right, and his teacher brother, who said: "I'm not a great one for pomp and ceremony"

No regrets, says twin who was 20 minutes late for a peerage

BY TONY ARMSTRONG

IT WAS the ultimate accident of birth. A mere 20 minutes separated the arrival of twin boys at an Edinburgh nursing home in November 1940.

But that was enough to ensure that this week John Borthwick is the twenty-fourth Lord Borthwick of That Ilk, Baron of Heriotmuir and Hereditary Falconer for Scotland. And that the Honourable James Borthwick remains a senior lecturer in engineering at the Jewell and Esk Valley College, Portobello.

Their father, the twenty-third Lord Borthwick who died aged 90, was buried on Tuesday in the family vault in the chapel at Borthwick Castle, Midlothian. But the younger twin, who lives in the former shepherd's cottage of a property he used to farm near the Borders village of Oxton, has no regrets about the 20 minutes that deprived him of one of Scotland's oldest titles.

He said: "I'm quite relieved not to be Lord Borthwick. I'm not a great one for a lot of pomp and ceremony and I'm very happy with what I'm doing. I get a lot of satisfaction out of teaching." He is married to Elspeth, a former Edinburgh nursing sister, and they have a son Malcolm, 23, who is a political consultant in London.

He added: "We are a loving family and I have everything that I want. My brother and I have always been very close. And we still are."

The new Lord Borthwick has been running the family's Borders estate for years. His work remains the same, but inheriting the title means an eventual move out of a bungalow in the village of Heriot, where he lives with his wife Adelaide and student daughters Georgina and Alexandria. Their new home a mile up the road will be the 37-roomed Crookston House, an 18th century Scottish baronial mansion where his father had lived alone with the help of a housekeeper since the death of his wife in 1976.

The new Lord Borthwick said yesterday of the 20 minutes that brought his title: "It has never ever caused any problem between my brother and me, and never will. We are joint executors of the estate and it will be divided. I already own the home farm and Borthwick Castle. As far as the peerage goes, it is very difficult when this sort of mantle is thrust upon you.

"I would eventually like to take my seat in the House of Lords and I would probably have something to contribute on agricultural issues."

The twins were both pupils at Gordonstoun but followed different paths when they left. The elder studied at the Edinburgh College of Agriculture while the younger spent five years as an apprentice fitter at the Loanhead engine works of McTaggart and Scott before going to Heriott Watt University. He then worked in South Africa as a goldmining engineer, farmed at Oxton for five years and has been a college lecturer since 1985.

When the twins were born, there was no certain prospect of any peerage. Although their father John had been born in Borthwick Castle, he was a member of a secondary line of the family and the ancient Borthwick title dating back to the 15th century had lain dormant since 1910.

The late Lord Borthwick, a regular Army officer and Normandy campaign veteran, fought for more than 40 years to prove his claim to the title in a case which even experts described as complex beyond belief. Then a genealogist discovered key documents in a cardboard box beneath a billiard table at Crookston House. The claim was won in 1986.

The title is now alive again completing a link with Borthwicks who escorted St Margaret to Edinburgh for her marriage to Malcolm Canmore in 1069. It was at Borthwick that Mary Queen of Scots and Bothwell sought sanctuary from nobles seeking to capture them. In 1650 Oliver Cromwell laid siege to the castle after the battle of Dunbar, eventually forcing the surrender of the then Lord Borthwick and his royalist garrison. Today the castle is leased as an hotel and conference centre. Guests can stay in Mary Queen of Scots's bedchamber.

As the real family home, Crookston House, awaits its working owner, there is a compensation for his twin. Because the lord has two daughters, male primogeniture means that the younger brother's son is now the heir to the title.

Navy to cut hull in last hope for world race yachtsman

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

THE Australian Navy was planning to try to cut a hole in the upturned hull of a British sailor's yacht early this morning to see if he was still alive.

The crew of the frigate *Adelaide*, which was due to arrive at Tony Bullimore's capsized craft in the Southern Ocean late last night will try to establish physical contact with the missing yachtsman, who may be sheltering in an air pocket. If high winds and seas were to prevent the *Adelaide*'s crew from approaching the yacht, they might wait for the arrival of the *Sanko Phoenix*, a Liberian-registered tanker, and try to winch the yacht *Exide Challenger* on to it.

The *Adelaide*'s captain, Raydon Gates, said they would spend 12 hours searching the area, 1,400 miles southwest of Perth. "If he's in an immersion suit and out of the water in that upturned yacht he has a reasonable chance of still being alive when I reach him."

Hopes of finding Bullimore, 56, alive, however, were fading after he failed to respond to sonar listening and tracking devices which were dropped alongside his craft by an Australian airforce rescue plane earlier in the day. It was hoped that the buoys, which make a loud noise, would bring a response.

Colonel Andrew Reynolds, of the Australian Defence Force, said: "Basically we were hoping that the microphones attached to the bouys would pick up any noises coming from within the hull and transmit them back. So far we've heard nothing.

"This either means there's no one in the hull, that he hasn't heard the noise or he's dead. We have to say that it doesn't look hopeful." The *Adelaide* had earlier yesterday been forced to abandon plans to send a helicopter to pick up French yachtsman Thierry Dubois, who capsized ten miles from Bullimore as both took part in the Vendée Globe round-the-world race. The navy hoped to make a second attempt late last night.

A third yachtsman in the race was reported in trouble last night. Organisers in Paris said they had lost track of the satellite beacon of Canadian Gerry Roufs and he was not answering radio calls.

The French yachtsman Raphael Dinelli, who was rescued by British sailor Peter Goss in the Southern Ocean over Christmas, arrived in Hobart, Tasmania, yesterday and paid tribute to his saviour.

Research offers explanation for memory and concentration lapses

Women's brains shrink in pregnancy

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN who claim to be losing their minds during pregnancy can take some comfort from new scientific evidence for the phenomenon which suggests that they can expect the full return of their faculties soon after giving birth.

Researchers have found that the brain shrinks during the late stages of pregnancy and takes up to six months to regain its full size. It may explain why many pregnant women complain of memory lapses and difficulties in concentrating.

The findings, disclosed yesterday at a meeting of the Physiological Society held at Sheffield University, have come from a team at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in west London. The researchers have been taking three dimensional images of the brains of pregnant women.

Anita Holdcroft, an anaesthesist at the school and a member of the team, said that the memory and concentration difficulties experienced by some pregnant women and new mothers may be linked to a shrinking brain. "These are very early findings but it may be that the two features are linked," she told the magazine *New Scientist*.

Yesterday Professor Graeme Bydder, another member of the team, said that their were several theories about the possible causes. One is that pregnancy creates fluid imbalances in the body. Another, more controversial, theory is that the foetus is somehow taking lipids and proteins from its mother's brain to build its own.

"The foetus can be seen as quite a vicious parasite . . . it needs to create its own brain," said Professor Bydder of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging unit at Hammersmith Hospital.

The researchers used a magnetic resonance scanner to examine the brains of ten healthy women at three stages: towards the end of pregnancy, six to eight weeks after delivery and up to six months later.

The pituitary gland, which releases a large number of hormones including some involved in reproduction, increased in size. But the brain shrank, returning to normal several months after delivery.

The researchers believe that the decrease in brain size is due to individual cells shrinking rather than a redcution in the number of cells. Professor Bydder said although the human brain became smaller as people aged, there was no evidence that more brain cells were lost during pregnancy than when a women was not pregnant.

The decision to scan the brains of pregnant women came after research into pre-eclampsia. This syndrome, which occurs in 10 per cent of pregnancies and causes up to ten deaths a year, involves high blood pressure and swelling in the face, legs and arms. Dr Holdcroft said the team had assumed that the brain also swelled up in those with pre-eclampsia. But the studies suggested that the opposite occured and was likely to be a normal feature of pregnancy.

Professor Bydder said the team hoped to scan the brains of women during menstruation to see if there were any changes in size. Other projects include scanning the brains of men and women after a couple of glasses of wine to see whether suspected changes in size can be detected.

Payout for patient who did not agree to abortion

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN whose unborn baby was aborted without her permission during a hysterectomy was given a five-figure out-of-court settlement from a hospital yesterday.

Jane Henson, 43, blames the abortion for the breakdown of her 19-year marriage. King's Mill Hospital in Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, which has been involved in similar cases in recent years, now carries out scans before gynaecological operations.

Mrs Henson, a building society manageress from Ravenshead, had been unaware that she was pregnant when she had the operation. She had had a 22-year-old son from a previous marriage but no children with her husband David, a teacher.

Mrs Henson said yesterday: "I have to live with the death of my baby, day in, day out. It's something I can never forget."

The couple would both have liked to have a baby, she said. "Who knows what a difference a child would have made? Dave had the chance of a part-time job and it would have worked out well, but it wasn't to be and instead our 19-year marriage broke down."

"I didn't take out the action to win compensation. No amount can compensate for the loss of a child. I started the action in a bid to stop the same tragedy happening to another woman." She had been approximately eight weeks' pregnant, her solicitor, Patrick Booth, said.

After Mrs Henson's case, a a woman called Barbara Whiten who had had a hysterectomy was told by her consultant gynaecologist — who did not treat Mrs Henson — "By the way, I think you may have been pregnant," according to a case heard by her Nottingham Crown Court two years ago. He was acquitted of performing an illegal abortion.

The hospital then introduced compulsory pregnancy tests on all women undergoing surgery.

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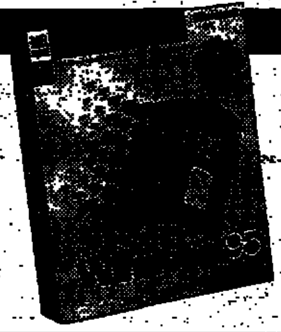

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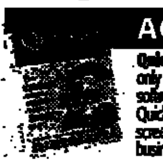

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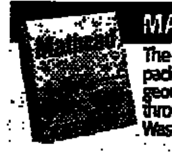

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Pressure for trophies from an ambitious chairman proves too much for thin-skinned manager

Keegan flies out of Magpies' nest with ruffled feathers

By Peter Ball and Paul Wilkinson

KEVIN KEEGAN'S departure from Newcastle United shocked the football world by its timing yesterday, but it did not surprise it. Throughout his career, Keegan has shown a readiness to threaten to quit and walk away — from England, from Liverpool and even, in his early days of management, from Newcastle.

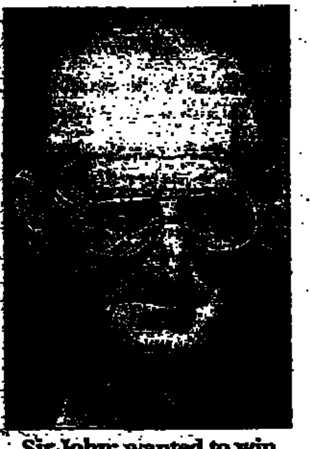
On that occasion, after walking out in March 1992 in protest that promises of transfer funds had not been fulfilled, he turned around before he had reached Scotch Corner. This time, the visible evidence of pressure — the rapidly greying hair, strained face and sunken eyes — suggests that there will be no going back.

For all Keegan's great qualities — his enthusiasm and approachability made him one of the most attractive personalities in his profession — he is temperamental and notably thin-skinned in a job where the hide of a rhinoceros is required. Pressure, and the suspicion that his side will miss out on the trophies again, have made his life increasingly difficult this season.

From modest beginnings at Scunthorpe, Keegan went on to enjoy an outstanding playing career with Liverpool, Hamburg, Southampton and finally Newcastle, as well as captaining England. As a player he was a model for every aspiring youngster, almost the classic example of a man who extracted the last drop from limited resources through sheer hard work, determination and a positive attitude.

That quality was reflected in his approach as a manager, not just in his search for style and attacking football, but also in his ability to get the best out of his players.

But there was at times a petulant streak. Dropped by Don Revie early in his career with England, he walked out, although he returned when Revie telephoned him.


Sir John: wanted to win trophies this season

In April 1991 Keegan was attacked by three men wielding a baseball bat, who smashed the windscreen of his Range Rover as he was resting in a car park near the M25 at Reigate Hill, Surrey.

The footballer, who had pulled over to get some sleep on the way home from a holiday in Spain, suffered injuries to his head and shoulders and later told reporters that he thought he was going to be killed.

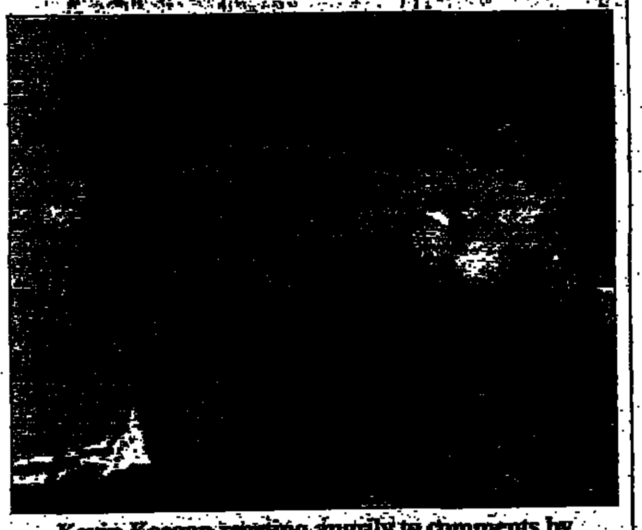
His departures from Liverpool after the club first won the European Cup in 1977, and from Newcastle into retirement for eight years in Spain after leading them to promotion, were planned, as this one was intended to be.

However, this parting of the ways is different. The failure last year, as Newcastle let a 12-point lead in the Premiership slip away to allow Manchester United to become champions, took its toll as the season came to a climax. Keegan let his emotions show in a startling television attack on Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, whose psychological ploys had got under Keegan's skin. Keegan reportedly offered his resignation in May, but it was rejected.

The summer signing of Alan Shearer for £15 million appeared to lift his spirits, but poor form before Christmas led to criticism from the fans for the first time, and a thinly veiled warning from Sir John Hall, the Newcastle United chairman, that this year a trophy was required.

Keegan's uncertain team selections suggested that the pressure was beginning to affect his judgment, and he offered his resignation after the defeat at Blackburn Rovers on Boxing Day. Not even a 7-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur two days later, nor a comfortable win over Leeds United on New Year's Day, convinced him that better days lay ahead.

Stress factor, page 42
Dream team left, page 44


Kevin Keegan reacting angrily to comments by Alex Ferguson in last season's run-in for the title

Friendship that was strained by dreams of glory

By Jason Nissé, Assistant Business Editor

SIR JOHN HALL and Kevin Keegan were both self-made men, rich enough to not need to work, when they came together 5½ years ago. Sir John had spent two years wresting control of Newcastle United and wanted to return the club to the glory of top-flight football.

The two enjoyed a good relationship, fired on by dreams of glory. Geordies called Sir John "Turtle" because he was forever being quoted saying, in strangled Tyneside tones: "I'm turtley behind Kevin Keegan."

But, as performances on the field stuttered recently, so the friendship became strained. Last month, in the corridor outside the director's lounge at St James's Park, Sir John was clearly angry. Newcastle United had just lost 2-1 at home to Arsenal, despite the visitors having their captain, Tony Adams, sent off after only 22 minutes.

"Give me 11 Englishmen who are willing to fight for the side and not lie down," he fumed, surveying a team sheet boasting £60 million of talent, including a Frenchman, David Ginola; Faustino Asprilla of Colombia, who cost the club £6.7 million; and the Belgian Philippe Albert.

Sir John could see a five-year dream in jeopardy; a dream which saw he and Keegan revitalise an ailing Newcastle United, take it to glory on the field and glory off, through a stock market flotation.

"There is more than one United," Sir John is fond of saying, referring to the Manchester club which overhauled Newcastle in the Premiership race and enjoys a stock market value of more than £400 million.

The dream saw the football club as a spearhead for the regeneration of the region. Sir John has worked on creating a sporting club with a rugby, ice hockey, basketball and motor racing team under the Newcastle banner. His property company, Cameron Hall, developed the MetroCentre in Gateshead, then Britain's largest shopping centre, and is working on the privatisation of the Port of Newcastle.

The imminent stock market flotation of Newcastle will show a nice return on Sir John's investment of around £50 million. But the 64-year-old miner's son is unlikely to be there to oversee it. It is expected that he will stand down to concentrate on his other sporting interests.

But the family will maintain a presence. Douglas, Sir John's 38-year-old son and business partner, has worked closely with Keegan this year. It was Douglas who persuaded Keegan to stay when he threatened to resign before Christmas and it was Douglas who told him it was time to go.

SALLY ADAMS

Newcastle United fans gathering outside St James's Park yesterday, awaiting confirmation that Kevin Keegan had resigned as manager

A bewildered city mourns for its fallen idol

By Lynne Truss

VISITORS to the black-and-white club shop at St James's Park are confronted by a statue of a man in motion, lashed under a tight grey tarpaulin. A football boot is just visible on the back foot, but otherwise it looks like a body fished from a river. According to a glum official, the tribute to the late Jackie Milburn had been covered over because of vandalism. Yesterday, with Newcastle in mourning for the man once called "the biggest name in Geordieland since Milburn", it summed up the way everyone seemed to feel.

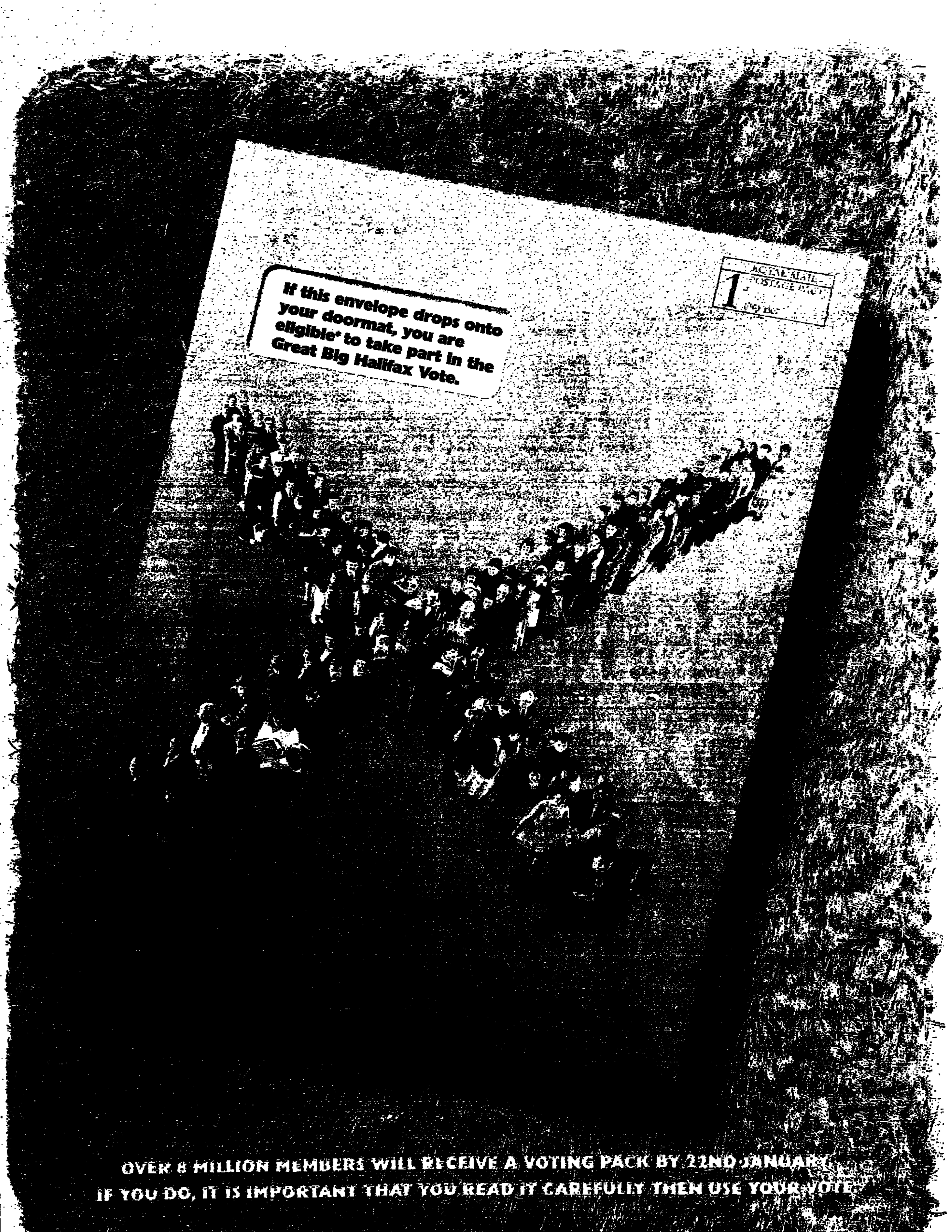
John was on the last leg of his flight home from Australia and I was glad not to have to break the news. The young man looked stunned. The tan was paling. After three weeks away, he was returning not just to biting cold but to a kind of mass pagan funeral for an earthly god. "I'm very disappointed," said John in measured tones. "Not angry at all?" "No, but I do think he shouldn't have taken the job if he wasn't going to finish it. He signed a ten-year contract, and people expected him to stay."

In Spenders Music Shop, a framed picture of Keegan ("we'd only just put that up," they sniffed) had not yet acquired the black drapery that would surely soon festoon it.

Had hard words been exchanged behind the scenes at Newcastle United FC? Speculation was rife, but instantly quashed. "He just doesn't need the hassle," was what everyone said. "He's not getting the results. And he's a millionaire. He's got a lovely house, you know."

"I think it will affect the morale of the town," said a steward, to whom Keegan had sometimes said nice things such as "Cold today!".

Only one person I spoke to dared say that Newcastle was bigger than Kevin Keegan. "He brought us from obscurity to almost winning the title," said my taxi-driver. "But he's an honest man and an emotional man, and perhaps he just feels he hasn't delivered what he promised."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Thrown to the lions in Carlton's tacky Colosseum

One sacrificial victim: the Druids' King Arthur

Mary Ann Sieghart, one of the panellists, describes how all attempts to present reasoned arguments were made impossible by an audience baying for blood

"WHAT am I doing here?" was the refrain that pounded in my head all evening. As I looked round the reception room and took in the surreal sight of King Arthur Pendragon, head of the Druids, wafting past Bernie Grant and Claire Rayner, while Peter Stringfellow came over to introduce himself to the Bishop of Birmingham, I began to rue the Editor's decision to send me in his place to take part in Tuesday night's television debate on the monarchy.

From the gold sashes worn by our greeters at the door to the bizarre clusters of people in the foyer clutching pikestaffs, I soon began to realise that this "debate" would make *Richard and Judy* look like *The Brains Trust.*

Had I not been there as a representative of *The Times*, I would have been sorely tempted to follow Steve Norris's lead. The former Tory minister was sitting on our huge sofa (with Terry Waite, Sir Bernard Ingham, Petronella Wyatt and the Duke of Braganza) watching the first half-hour of the programme. The *Gladiators*-like set was an early warning, but we were still unprepared for the sheer tackiness of the spectacle.

The 3,000-strong audience, who had been bussed in from all over the country, were in the mood to throw us all to the lions. Panellists were booed, hissed, heckled and drowned out. Mr Norris must have realised pretty quickly that one noted adulterer might not last long trying to defend another.

Suddenly he stood up. "I'm not taking part in this," he growled. "It can't be worth £100." While admiring his audacity as we watched him storm off, I could not help mentally congratulating my agent for having negotiated a larger fee.

The producer of our segment of the programme came over to ask what we thought of the show so far. "Crap" was the first word that came into my head. Unfortunately it came out of my mouth, too.

Whether the buses had been packed with crates of lager or the warm-up act had stirred the audience's blood, the atmosphere inside Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre reminded me of a packed pub late on a Saturday night that is about to break into an ugly brawl. I have never been to a boxing match, but now I can imagine what it must feel like to walk into the ring.

Blood was what the audience wanted. Blood was what the producers offered. The only way, they had calculated, to persuade viewers to keep watching was to inject a sense of danger into the proceedings. Unfortunately this also made any decent argument impossible. Trying to debate the relative merits of a constitutional monarchy and an elected presidency while the audience and the other panellists behaved as if they were watching Milwall v Wimbledon was like whispering into a Force 8 gale.

Not surprisingly, Carlton's poll had discovered that most people would like the Royal Family to pay its own way. A similar percentage would doubtless vote for murderers to be put behind bars. In vain did I try to put the record straight. The family *does* pay its own way: having surrendered the income from the Crown Estates to the Treasury in return for the Civil List, they have ensured that the taxpayer makes a £40 million profit from them each year. In vain did I point out that there were no longer any "hangers-on" getting taxpayers' money: the Queen supports them all apart from the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

But I fear my words were carried off on the wind. The audience was in no mood for rationality. Nor were the producers. They had invited far too many panellists for any one of them to be allowed more than a couple of sentences each. And even those were delivered against the background of heckling, foot-stamping and jeers.

A derogatory adjective has crept into use in our household in the past year or two. It describes the gruesome descent into tackiness of much of ITV's output. "This is *so* Carlton!" my husband and I often groan, having pressed 3 on the remote control. Tuesday night's debate was Carlton incarnate.

Palace takes comfort in 66% vote for monarchy

ITV points to ratings in defence of populism

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent, and Alan Hamilton

ITV's record-breaking television phone-in programme on the monarchy, which attracted 8.3 million viewers and 2.6 million voters, is likely to be the first of many televised polls on controversial subjects.

The programme's rating was double what most factual shows might expect to reach. Even as the programme ended at 11.10pm, 7.6 million viewers were still tuned in, a staggering figure for that time of night. The response to the phone-in was more than twice the previous record for a *television phone-in poll and* five times higher than the number of viewers who recently responded to the BBC's telephone poll to find the favourite BBC television programme of all time. Topics likely to feature in future include law and order, health, jobs and Europe.

Paul Corley, controller of network factual programmes at ITV, said of the programme, which came out two-to-one in favour of the monarchy: "It was great to get so many people to vote and to stimulate debate among families all over the country."

Mr Corley rebuffed criticism of the standard of debate: "This programme was specifically trying to give the man and woman in the street their chance to have a say on the subject. This was not meant to be *Newsnight* or a Radio 4 programme of high calibre but with a small audience; this was an ITV-style programme. Commercial television has a responsibility to find out how it can get good ratings from serious subjects for debate."

Buckingham Palace was clearly relieved yesterday that the programme's final vote had gone so heavily in favour of a monarchy. A spokesman said: "The quality of debate left something to be desired, but it was encouraging that there was so much interest in the issues and, after the difficulties of recent years, that so many people took the trouble to show their support for the monarchy."

Although adopting an Olympian detachment from such a populist circus, the Palace is gratified that the majority of republican views gave credit to the Queen for her dignity and constancy, and it is well aware that the immediate problem remains the public perception of the Prince of Wales.

However, a senior academic yesterday cleared the Prince of Wales of being the cause of Scotland's disillusionment with the Royal Family: 56 per cent of Scots voted against the monarchy after the debate, the only region to do so.

Neil MacCormick, Regius Professor in Public Law at Edinburgh University and a senior figure in the Scottish *National Party, said* Scotland's position could be explained in the context of the current constitutional debate and as a protest against the remoteness of British institutions, rather than as Calvinistic outrage about the "peccadilloes" of the heir to the throne, as had been claimed by Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party.

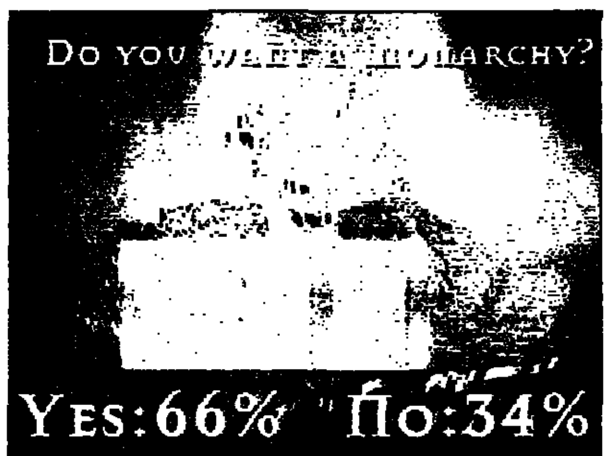
Steve Clarke, head of factual programmes at Carlton, which made *Monarchy — The Nation Decides*, said he was *keen to make further* programmes. However, as the cost of such programmes is relatively high — about £500,000 — they are unlikely to be screened often.

Although telephone polls cannot be regarded as representative of the nation as a whole, because the callers are self-selecting, Mr Clarke said that the result of Carlton's vote exactly mirrored the findings of a recent MORI poll.

Mr Clarke added that he was disappointed that some of the panellists who appeared on the programme, such as Sir Bernard Ingham, had complained about it. "Some people are used to the sanitised conditions of a closed studio and are not used to having their opinions challenged by a studio audience."

Tim Davis, of the media agency CIA MediaNetwork, said the programme marked a new trend: "The couch potato is becoming a couch commando. Television is increasingly a two-way communication channel."

Magnus Linklater, page 16
Leading article and Letters, page 17



The 3,000 members of the studio audience that took part in the debate were selected by specialist audience recruitment researchers, who canvassed thousands of people in 23 towns, choosing a representative sample from each. Audiences are not paid for appearing on such programmes because demand for places is usually high, although Carlton, the television company that made *Monarchy — The Nation Decides*, paid their travel expenses. Television companies try to ensure that the studio audience for such programmes is representative of the population at large and not biased by too many members of political parties or interest groups.

PAUL ROGERS/NEWS TEAM BIRMINGHAM

Roger Cook, left, John Stapleton, Trevor McDonald and Michele Newman before Tuesday's live debate

MORI chief attacks 'voodoo poll' as poor measure of public opinion

By Damian Whitworth

THE telephone poll in which 2.6 million people voted was organised in three months by a small team at a company that employs 50 people.

The tele-marketing firm Broadsystem was retained by Carlton Television for an undisclosed sum to arrange the computerised vote. Robert Dirskovski, a sales and promotions executive, said the company had been surprised by the huge numbers who voted. The success paved the way for future "referendums" in the run-up to the general election, he said, and he rejected accusations that the poll had been unscientific.

Last night Bob Worcester, chairman of MORI, the polling organisation, said such votes were not representative of public opinion and had been widely rejected in America, where they have been used for several years.

"These call-in 'voodoo' polls are merely a measure of the ability of pressure groups, in this case, monarchists versus republicans, to marshal their supporters to ring in over and over again, as happened in both the BBC *Today* programme's vote and the BBC Radio 5 Live and others' phone-in votes on Prince Philip's remarks about the ban on handguns." He said that he had called ten times to test the system and got through on seven.

But Mr Dirskovski said: "The findings were very much in line with those of MORI and with polls in newspapers. In terms of scale has there ever been a survey of public opinion on quite this level. Most pollsters just interview two or three thousand people."

Broadsystem, which is based in Camden, north London, and is a subsidiary of News International which owns *The Times*, started ten years ago and specialises in automated call handling systems.

"We have been bowled over by the response on this occasion," said Mr Dirskovski. "I think there is now a very good case for widening this type of event to a presidential-style debate or a debate on Europe. After all, a referendum on Europe would be very expensive."

BT is upgrading its technology to cope with the massive demands on its networks created by huge phone polls. The company installed 14,000 circuits, capable of handling 60,000 calls a minute, linked to the Broadsystem computer. But thousands of people still called the operator to complain that they could not get through on the two 0891 lines.

The problem lay in the need for every call to pass through a local exchange before reaching the national network. Copper cables on the local networks do not have the same capacity as the national network fibre-optic cables and this is why some callers got the engaged tone or a recorded message saying lines were busy. Once through the local exchanges BT's main call centre at Oswestry was able to redirect calls around the country — even out of the country and back in again — in order to keep an even flow on the networks.

Council considers ban on housing paedophiles

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

PAEDOPHILES may be banned from renting council homes under a proposal to provide greater protection for tenants.

The ruling Labour group on Middlesbrough Council is to discuss a ban on housing convicted child-sex offenders as a result of new government guidance that gives councils greater discretion over choice of tenants.

Michael Carr, chairman of the housing committee, is in favour of a ban. "We can't afford to see the safety and security of our tenants jeopardised by accommodating paedophiles," he said.

The new guidance to local authorities suggests they are entitled to decide that certain categories of people should not qualify for housing. A statement from Middlesbrough Council said: "Groups who are debarred from council housing can include those with a history of violence towards staff, antisocial behaviour or rent arrears.

"It has been suggested that locally we could determine that individuals who have been convicted of sexual offences against children could also form a category who are not entitled to be considered for housing.

"We think it is proper to explore this possibility, given our concern, and that of the whole community, for the safety of children."

The council is one of the first to act on the guidance, although there has been a number of initiatives in which police and local education authorities have acted to give greater information to the public about paedophiles in their neighbourhood.

The Labour proposal in Middlesbrough, however, will be viewed with alarm by penal reform groups working with convicted offenders. They fear that such a ban would drive paedophiles "underground" and put the public at greater risk.

Roger Statham, chief probation officer of Cleveland, said: "If people don't get support when they come out of prison, and if they are not in a position where they have a regular roof over their heads, they are likely to go off the rails in a number of ways."

Tenants back official accused of tip-off about sex offender

By Ian Murray
community correspondent

COUNCIL tenants are fighting to protect the job of a housing officer who allegedly tipped them off when a convicted paedophile moved to their estate.

Mike Wood appeared before a disciplinary panel of Birmingham City Council yesterday. A full, private hearing next Thursday will decide whether he broke council rules by disclosing confidential information. If found guilty, he could lose his job.

Mr Wood was suspended on full pay in November after tenants on the Garretts Green estate discovered that a new resident had just been released from a prison sentence for assaulting a girl.

Parents held a demonstration against the man, who had moved into a flat where his elderly mother had lived for several years. The man and his mother were moved.

More than 1,500 people signed a petition asking for no disciplinary action to be taken against Mr Wood. John Hemming, a Liberal Democrat councillor who is leading the campaign, said parents had a right to know about the conviction so that they could ensure children's safety.

Karon Bull, who has two children, said: "He invited children back to his flat. He told them his name was Elvis Presley and his mum was Mystic Meg. His behaviour was so bizarre that he seemed to be able to draw children to him. If we had not been told about his past we wouldn't have had the opportunity to keep a close eye on the kids."

Ann Fleming, spokeswoman for the housing department, said: "The man went to live with his mother, whom we have an obligation to house. There is no register to which we can refer to find out whether prospective tenants have a record of sexual crimes."

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Geographers' conference: Nigel Hawkes on emergency care and rising demand for home help

Call to replace NHS casualty units with 'trauma centres'

A NETWORK of 24-hour trauma centres is needed to replace the "fragmented and haphazard" National Health Service treatment of accident and emergency cases, it was claimed yesterday.

Philip Kivell, of the University of Keele, told the Geographers' Conference in Exeter that the present system of 318 accident and emergency units owed more to historical patterns than to real need. "It is not providing the best service for the most serious injuries, yet people cling to it for a variety of reasons, including local pride."

The closure of one such unit, at Edgware General Hospital in northwest London, led Sir John Gorst, the Conservative MP for Hendon North, to resign the Tory whip.

Dr Kivell said that many units, especially in rural areas, saw fewer than 20,000 patients a year — too few to provide the best standards of care — while in cities many were close together. More than half the units in England and Wales are within ten miles of a similar unit.

Thirty major injury centres, each based on a big town or city with an existing well-equipped A&E unit, would have 24-hour consultant-led services and would co-ordinate emergency care.

They would form the hub of a network of between four and ten general hospitals which would continue to provide emergency care for their communities, concentrating on the less severe cases. They would have data links to the trauma centres to send X-ray images and help to decide what treatment to give, or whether a case should be sent directly to the trauma centre.

"Decisions made in the first hour after an accident are crucial, and in many cases it may be better to take a patient further, to a well-resourced centre, rather than to a local hospital," Dr Kivell said.

He admitted that the plan could lead to the closure of some A&E units, but said that it would be inevitable anyway because of financial constraints. Most trivial injuries, such as cuts and bruises, could be dealt with by GPs or practice nurses.

"It is not just a matter of size and resources, but the size of the patient throughput," he said. "That has to be large enough to give the staff adequate experience. If you are the victim of a gunshot wound in the middle of Wales, for example, you aren't necessarily going to get the best treatment, because they probably don't see more than a couple of cases a year."

With Keith Mason, also of the Department of Geography at Keele, Dr Kivell has worked out the best locations for the trauma centres. London would have five. All main population centres would be within 30 miles of one, although people living in thinly populated rural areas would have much further to go.

He admitted that the analysis left out of account "the intensely sensitive political issues" raised by closures. "If some centres are to be built up, and the financial resources are limited, this will inevitably raise the possibility of allowing some centres to decline, or even close," he said.

But the problem needed to be addressed, he said. More than 10,000 people every year died from accidents, principally on the road or at home, with accidents at work accounting for only 8 per cent. Injuries were now the leading cause of death up to the age of 40.

The older image: traditional cleaning ladies have lost ground in Hampstead, the conference was told

Younger Ms Mopps sweep back into rooms at the top

A GLIMPSE into the lifestyles of Hampstead's cleaning ladies yesterday showed how the traditional world of Mrs Mopp has been replaced by younger women taking advantage of a strong rise in demand for paid domestic labour.

Behind the solid frontages of some of north London's most fashionable homes, the rooms are kept clean by an informal workforce, many of whom also claim benefits, and others who are foreigners without work permits, Rosie Cox of Coventry University said. The implication was that the service sector may be much larger than official figures show.

The private army of domestic staff comes from homelands as far apart as Colombia, Russia and the Philippines, as well as Britain. Many are mothers earning extra money by working for other working mothers. Ms Cox interviewed employers and staff, choosing Hampstead as the London area with the highest demand for domestic employment, as judged by advertisements in *The Lady* magazine.

Not surprisingly, she reported that no one enjoyed cleaning as a job, but said the work was convenient and easy to find. Pay rates ranged from £5 to £6.50 an hour, with travel expenses on top, and sometimes even holiday pay. In Coventry, where Ms Cox also did some research, rates were £2.50 an hour, without travel costs.

The employers divided into two broad groups: the career minded who needed help in organising their own lives — such as working mothers who needed helpers to collect children from school — and people with plenty of time but no desire to spend it cleaning.

The nationalities also included Polish, Portuguese and Irish, she said. She did not ask if cleaners were continuing to draw benefits, but guessed that most did. The nature of the work could be exploitative by falling outside employment legislation, but it could also be mutually beneficial.

Ms Cox said: "Low-paid jobs are being created, but because of the existence of the welfare state they are often in the informal sector. The very existence of a benefits system has meant that many higher-paid people are able to employ domestic help because they do not have to bear the true cost, such as sick pay."

The number employed was not known, but evidence suggested that it was growing fast. The most recent Family Expenditure Survey showed that £3.89 billion is spent on all kinds of help in the home.

Leading article, page 17

MATCH OF THE DAY POSTPONED

A lecture entitled "Beer, women, football and curry" has been cancelled because the author is suffering from a stomach upset. Shaun Fielding, a 28-year-old researcher, was due to deliver his paper on "new lad" culture to the conference today, but his illness has kept him at home in Birmingham. Yesterday Mr Fielding said: "I don't think my problem was caused by a curry. I think it is more likely to have been brought on by the stress of trying to write this paper in time." Mr Fielding, who took his title from a T-shirt worn by fans of Bolton Wanderers Football Club, recently left Birmingham University for the Tavistock Institute in London and has been unable to complete his research into the lifestyles of Midlands apprentices.

MINERS UNMOVED BY JOBS

Few unemployed miners are prepared to move in search of work, the conference was told. A survey in Barnsley and Lothian showed most had concluded that moving was too difficult, and too unlikely to produce a job, to be worth considering. The houses they had bought from the Coal Board were difficult to sell, said Emma Hollywood, of the University of Sheffield, and many were too fond of their home area to move anyway. "They have a very strong attachment to place. They simply aren't prepared to move on the off-chance of a job in some other part of the country," she said. The former miners survived on redundancy money or benefits, and most appeared to accept with resignation that they would never get well-paid jobs again.

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Astronomer dusts off evidence of 1690 comet

By Nigel Hawkes

A 300-year-old drawing discovered at the Paris Observatory records a collision between Jupiter and a comet or asteroid, almost identical to the impact when the Shoemaker Levy-9 comet hit the same planet in 1994.

Astronomers had assumed that many such impacts occurred over the centuries, but lacked evidence. The drawing, one of several by the distinguished astronomer Giovanni Domenico Cassini that have been rediscovered, provides the first such evidence.

Cassini saw a spot appear on the surface of Jupiter in December 1690. The spot, as he described it, has several features in common with the impact spots made by the Shoemaker Levy comet.

Italian-born Cassini was the first director of the Paris Observatory. His drawings were rediscovered in the archives by Isshe Tabe, an amateur astronomer from Japan, who is studying historical records of Jovian phenomena. With the description written by Cassini, they provide clear evidence of an impact.

The spot appeared on December 5, 1690, and its size — 4,660 miles across — was comparable to the spots made by fragments from Shoemaker Levy. The 1690 spot developed over the next few weeks, like the 1994 spots, and the shape changed. It first became a crescent, then broke into several dark patches. The most easterly of these demonstrated the effect of the winds that race across the surface of Jupiter, as did one of the 1994 spots.

Saudis say murder court will find truth

By Michael Binyon

ONE of the most influential members of the Saudi royal family issued an authoritative statement yesterday insisted that his country would ignore any outside pressure over the trial of the two British nurses accused of murder.

Prince Naif bin Abdulaziz, the Interior Minister, is a brother of King Fahd has the power to review all important cases and rulings. He said yesterday: "Our sole interest, regardless of the media, is to find the truth and we are sure the truth will come out during the trial."

He also emphasised that any confession by Lucille McLaughlan and Deborah Parry to the police would not be upheld unless it was rendered freely in front of the court. The two nurses were said to have admitted murdering Yvonne Gilford, an Australian nurse, but have since retracted the confessions.

In a clear response to claims that they had confessed under duress, Prince Naif said: "A confession given to the police is in no way binding on the court. Even with a confession, the prosecution will have to prove the case."

A senior Scottish lawyer is to represent Ms McLauchlan, of Dundee, free of charge after being contacted by her parents. Peter Watson, a solicitor advocate, has represented relatives of the Lockerbie, Piper Alpha and Dunblane disasters. Miss Parry, from the Midlands, is to be represented by the Manchester solicitor Rodger Pannone, whose former clients include Ernest Saunders and Asil Nadir.

Churches attack baby milk firms

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

BABY milk manufacturers were accused yesterday of endangering children in poor countries by aggressive marketing that discourages mothers from breastfeeding.

After the report by 27 charities, churches and other organisations, the Church of England will reconsider whether to boycott Nestlé and other food companies, including Nutricia, known in Britain as Cow & Gate. The Church withdrew support for an international boycott of Nestlé in 1994 while it sought independent evidence of bad practices.

The multinationals are accused of violating a code designed to stop women being pressurised into using breast milk substitutes, which are blamed for the deaths of babies in the Third World through malnutrition and poor hygiene.

Infant formula is so expensive in some countries that a family has to work four weeks for the price of one tin, the report says. Mothers are tempted to eke out the contents by overdiluting. If they are illiterate, they cannot follow the instructions.

The report, based on interviews with 3,200 women in four nations, was produced by the Interagency Group on Breastfeeding Monitoring. It found widespread breaches of the code, including gifts such as pens and notepads, particularly in the emerging markets of Poland and Thailand.

Baby milk manufacturers condemned the research as "biased in design and execution". But the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Rev Simon Barrington-Ward, said: "Some commercial interests of leading companies are running against the health and the concerns of people in the poorer world."

The World Health Organisation estimates that 1.5 million infant deaths a year could be averted through effective breastfeeding.

هكذا من الأصل

Balloon flight ends in desperate fight for life

Alex Ritchie, left, Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand inside the capsule at the launch. Mr Ritchie later climbed out to jettison gas tanks as the balloon fell to earth

Stand-in's deadly gamble averts disaster over desert

By Andrew Pierce

THE extraordinary bravery of a last-minute stand-in saved the lives of Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand when he clambered on top of *Virgin Challenger*'s plummeting capsule at 10,000ft to unbolt and dump overboard two massive gas cylinders.

The do-or-die gamble by Alex Ritchie, 52, who was called up as six hours before launch, halted the balloon's dramatic descent with minutes to spare.

Mr Ritchie battled for five nerve-wracking minutes on the 7ft-wide roof of the capsule, in pitch black and freezing conditions, to release two propane gas cylinders in an attempt to stop *Challenger's* freefall. He had a parachute, but had never used one before.

A fault was discovered shortly after take-off in Marrakesh as *Challenger* cruised at 15 knots at 30,000ft. The balloon had reached its height in little more than an hour, two hours fewer than anticipated. Mr Branson had described it as "a bit of a hairy launch" with the balloon "spewing helium".

Challenger's buoyancy came from a sealed helium bubble inside the balloon that could be vented to stop it rising too high but could not be refilled once gas had escaped. The belief was the sun would heat the helium during the day and small propane gas burners would heat the air around it at night.

The most likely theories last night were either that too much helium was vented by Mr Lindstrand, the pilot, or that the rapid ascent distorted the shape of the balloon's envelope, allowing the helium to escape. Another possibility is that the quantity of helium needed to maintain buoyancy at night was underestimated.

At 4pm the crew began a managed descent, but soon lost control. The balloon fell 26,000ft in the next 2½ hours. The average rate of descent was 400ft a minute but at one stage the balloon fell at speeds of up to 2,500ft per minute or about 41ft per second — faster than an express lift.

At 6.25pm, in darkness, the hatch door which Mr Branson, Mr Lindstrand, and Mr Ritchie had entered at the start of the first attempt to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon was thrown open and Mr Branson hurled the crew's entire food supplies and one tonne of water into oblivion in a desperate attempt to slow down the fall. He said later: "Anything we could lay our hands on to dump overboard to lose weight. As we continued to fall we realised it wasn't enough."

Along with the ballast went project director Mike Kendrick's £2,000 Swiss Breitling watch that Mr Ritchie was wearing. The only thing the crew saved was two bottles of champagne.

> ❛All I took with me was a parachute and straps so I could be lashed to the capsule. I only did what I had to do❜

As they reached 4,000ft, there was a brief ten minute respite, and they soared to relative safety at 13,000ft. But the balloon began plunging once more at speeds of up to 400ft a minute.

"We decided we had to lose the fuel tanks. It was the only way to arrest the fall," Mr Branson said. The crew tried to release one of the six propane gas cylinders but found the automatic safety release was jammed. Unknown to them, couplings preventing release had been left on at take-off.

Mr Ritchie, a mechanical engineer, decided he should go outside to try to release them by hand. "I crawled out on the capsule top and sorted it out. All I took with me was a parachute and some straps so I could be lashed to the top of the capsule. It's all a blur," he said. "I only did what I had to do."

Overall, the emergency lasted little more than 45 minutes. But in that time Mr Branson's global voyage had come to an end.

The crew decided that the dawn should mark the start of their final controlled descent, which began two minutes after midnight, drifting down through 10,000ft at 3.45am, and 7,000ft at 4.50am.

The Bechar military base, in a restricted desert area in north-west Algeria, was chosen for landing. But a final hurdle lay below — the snow-topped 5,700ft peaks of the Atlas Mountains. The balloon rose again to 13,000ft by 6.22am.

Touchdown followed an hour later — 17 days earlier than planned and only 20 hours after launch.

There was a strange silence in the capsule. But in the tiny control centre in west London the safe arrival was greeted by more tears and a deafening round of applause.

Mr Branson sent a short e-mail message on the Internet to the control centre which said: "The eagle has landed. No damage to the capsule. No injuries. Will call on the satellite phone as soon as we have drunk the champagne."

Mr Branson said: "The hero of the moment is Alex Ritchie. I am sure if he had not been on board we would not have come back. Being an engineer it was fortuitous that he was there and knew how to release the two tanks."

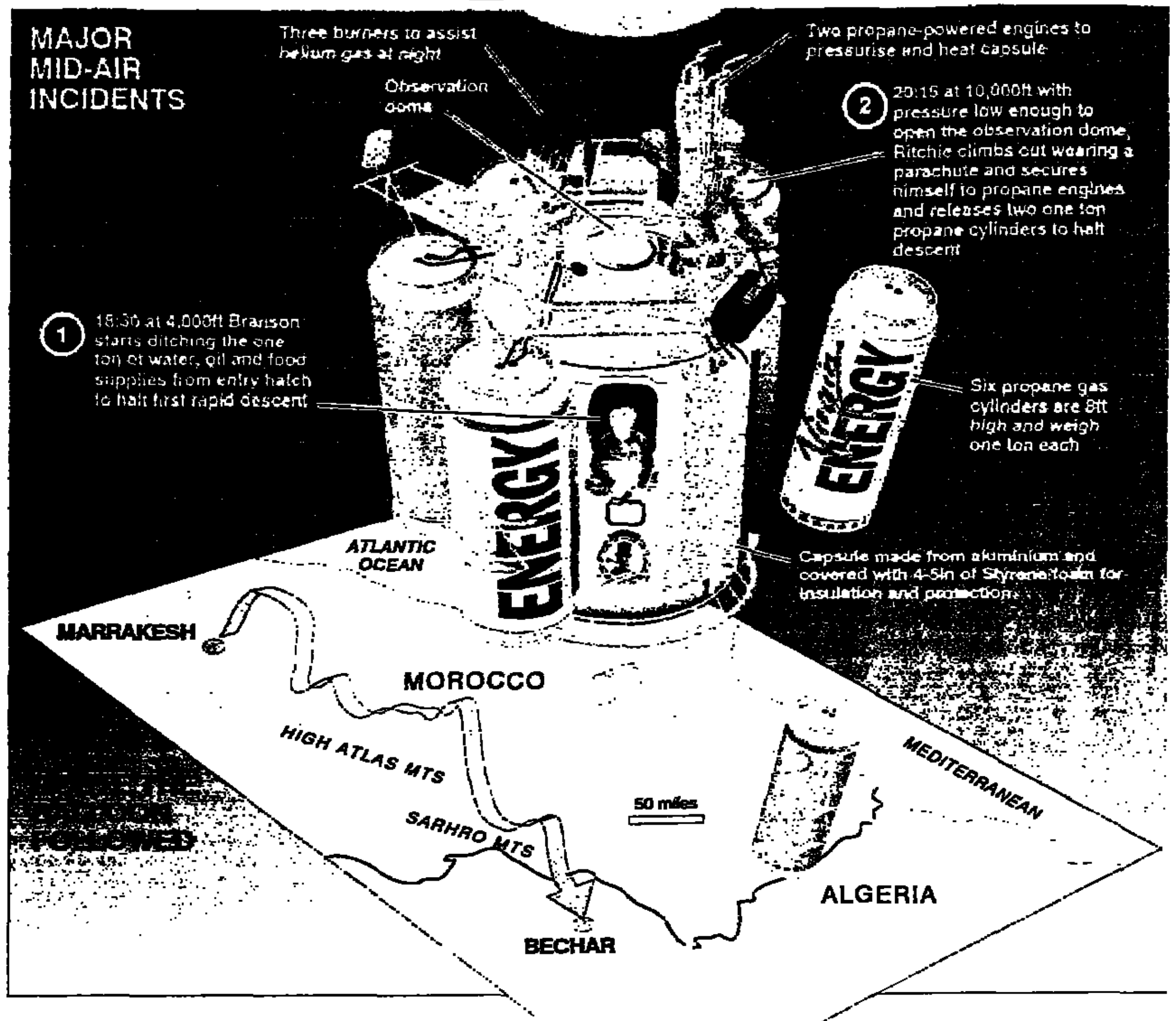
Reliving the worst moments, he said: "I suddenly thought what am I doing up here again. I remember saying to myself if I get through this I am never going to do it again."

Mr Branson's escapades could now be over. He said his son, Sam, 11, had asked him whether he would try again. "But when I asked him what he thought he said, 'Of course you should'. I was rather hoping to hear the reverse from him."

Mr Branson's wife Joan was implacably opposed and the family plans to discuss a possible further attempt next year.

Per Lindstrand admitted that they may have been too ambitious in using an untested balloon of such magnitude on an epic voyage. He said: "I think we may have tried to push the barriers of technology back a little too far. We had never flown the whole system. It caught us out."

Mrs Branson's wife, Joan, was telephoned at her London home at 7.30am with news of the landing. She replied: "Is he safe? That's all right then. I'm so relieved. I'm going to take the children to school."



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Six propane gas cylinders are 8ft high and weigh one ton each
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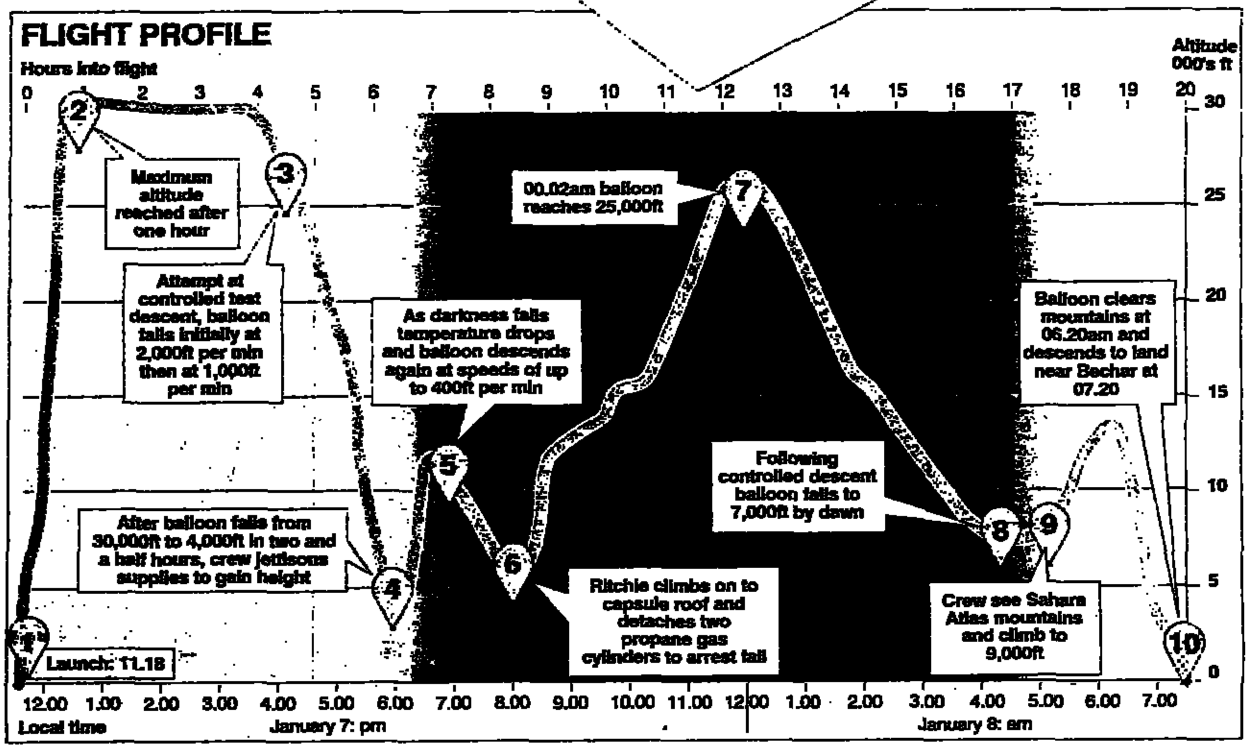

We're not gloating, say Swiss rivals

By Richard Duce

A CHALLENGER for the balloon circumnavigation record is hoping for take-off from Switzerland this weekend. Weather conditions permitting, the *Breitling Orbiter* may lift off from Lausanne on Saturday, two days earlier than expected.

Don Cameron, the Bristol-based balloonist who is launch director for the Swiss crew, was preparing yesterday to travel to Lausanne at short notice. Mr Cameron's firm made the balloon for the Swiss attempt and for an American rival.

Alan Noble, project director of Cameron Balloons, said: "We are not gloating. These balloons are prototypes. If anything, our balloon is more advanced than Richard's. What happened to him could happen to us. This is no easy task to complete."

The Swiss flight will be monitored from a control centre at Geneva airport. Mr Noble added: "We are still analysing the weather reports, but Saturday is a possibility. We are ready to go.

"It has been frustrating sitting in poor weather while Richard was taking off. We are relieved he is down safely. Ballooning is a small community and they are friends although we are competitors.

Mr Cameron said yesterday that he was "very sad" to hear of the failure of *Virgin Challenger*. "These balloons are new developments and technology faults are always a possibility. The only way you can test one of these balloons is to fly it around the world.

"It is a pity that they had a fault so early on. There are so many hurdles you have to face in such a flight. It is unfortunate that theirs came early. They are sure to be very disappointed."

The American flyer, Steve Fossett, was awaiting a change in the jet stream currents which would allow his balloon to lift off from St Louis, Missouri.

Family's pride in middle-aged hero who rose to the challenge

By Kathryn Knight

THE idea of a 52-year-old man performing an action stunt worthy of an Arnold Schwarzenegger film left his family feeling a little breathless yesterday. Alex Ritchie is a bespectacled, practical man whose main interest is steamboats.

In the tradition of modest heroes, he failed to mention his action to his wife, Jill, in a 7.30am telephone call. Mrs Ritchie, a primary school teacher in Harwich, Essex, said: "He sounded in good spirits, if disappointed, but said nothing about what had happened. He just said, 'It's me here. We are down safely and surrounded by curious natives — I hope they are friendly.'"

Then Richard Branson snatched the phone. "He sounded a bit fraught, but cheerful. He said, 'Your husband saved our lives last night.'" Even then, she did not know the details until 10am when a journalist asked her how she felt. She said: "I couldn't believe it. I am glad that I didn't see it as it happened. It would have been too much to bear.

"It was no surprise, though. My husband is not totally without fear but he is very level-headed in a crisis and he would have risen to the challenge. Alex would not be happy if life was too dull. I have always known I did not have an ordinary husband. I am very, very proud."

Jill Ritchie keeping track yesterday. She said: "I always knew I didn't have an ordinary husband"

Their sons, Alasdair, 23, a student of mechanical engineering at the University of Hertfordshire, and Duncan, 19, a racing mechanic, were impressed. Alasdair said: "I was completely flabbergasted when I heard he was boarding the balloon, as I'd never realised it had been a possibility. Now I am trying to picture him on top of that capsule.

"My brother and I often joke that he's got more energy and get-up-and-go than the two of us put together, despite being twice our age."

Mr Ritchie, who has been married for 26 years, was born in Scotland but was raised and educated in Durban, South Africa. His mother, Christine Daly, emigrated there with her new husband after Mr Ritchie's father died.

He studied engineering at Durban University before completing a postgraduate course at Cambridge University. He worked on projects at Leyland Gas Turbines and Noel Penny Gas Turbines, and still works as a self-employed engineering consultant. His work with balloon burners had been noticed by Per Lindstrand, who asked him ten years ago to work on a Branson project.

But his passion is for steamboats. He has one in his back garden and much of his work is supplying companies with specialist engines.

In Durban yesterday, his mother said he was the kind of man who took up sports and hobbies for their practical value: "He completed a deep-sea diving course recently, but he does these things with the view that they might come in useful one day.

"He's not a daredevil. He's a very practical chap. He sees what has to be done and then grasps the nettle. He's also got tremendous energy and an hugely active mind. He's fascinated with how things work.

"It's just lucky that he happened to be there. I think he was sent by Providence on this balloon trip."

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Amman demonstrators mar Israeli trade fair

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

JORDANIAN security forces clashed with 4,000 demonstrators protesting against the first Israeli trade fair in Amman yesterday.

The anti-Israeli demonstrations were the biggest seen in the Jordanian capital since the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis and underlined growing grassroots opposition to normalising ties *with the Jewish State.*

The protesters, chanting the Islamic battle cry "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greater) tried to push through security forces mounted on horses and camels in a cordon erected half a mile from the fair site, but failed to get nearer. Police fired water cannon filled with *coloured dye but that failed to* move the angry crowd, which included representatives of 20 out of Jordan's 23 political parties.

The crowd carried banners reading "Jordan is not the Zionist bridge to the Arab world", and "A massacre in Hebron and an exhibition in Amman", a bitter reference to last week's shooting of six Arabs in a Hebron market by an off-duty Israeli soldier. The number of Israeli companies attending the fair dropped from an expected 200 to around 70 as a result of the campaign mounted against it in the run-up to yesterday's opening, which was boycotted by a number of Jordanian VIPs.

King Husain, the strongest *proponent of the 1994 peace* deal with Israel, was out of the country holding talks with President Mubarak of Egypt.

On the other side of the Jordan river, Palestinian officials claimed yesterday that talks over an Israeli withdrawal from Hebron had plunged into crisis. Dennis Ross, the US special envoy, struggled to breathe new life into deadlocked negotiations to secure Israeli troop withdrawal from Hebron, and Palestinian officials spoke of "very wide gaps" remaining *after a six-hour meeting he* held with Yassir Arafat in Gaza. The meeting which ended early yesterday was described by PLO sources as "extremely tense".

"The talks have hit a serious crisis," Nabil Abourdeneh, Mr Arafat's spokesman, told Voice of Palestine Radio. "The Israelis are threatening the peace process by making such proposals."

Imad Faluji, Palestinian telecommunications *minister* and former spokesman for the militant group Hamas, said *that Israel would "pay a very* high price" for the deterioration of the peace process.

Senior Israeli officials claim that the broad outline of a deal to pull Israeli troops out of 80 per cent of Hebron has already been achieved *in principle* but is being deliberately held up by Mr Arafat in an attempt to increase international pressure on the government of Binyamin Netanyahu.

"Our feeling is that Mr Arafat is in no rush and it is really up to him when we can go forward," Moshe Fogel, *and Israeli spokesman said.*

Last night Israeli warplanes launched two raids into South Lebanon after Katyusha rockets fell in northern Israel. The upsurge in violence followed two guerrilla attacks in which one Israeli soldier was killed and seven others were wounded. The fighting followed recent reinforcements of Israeli armour in the area.

Among the protesters in Amman, Laith Shubailat, a vocal *opposotion* activist recently released from jail on the King's orders, attacked the government for becoming "an agent of Zionism to Judaise Jordan".

Ahmed Obeidat, the former Prime Minister and intelligence chief, urged calm, telling the demonstrators that "*the security forces are brother* Jordanians like us ... their feelings are like ours and they are only given orders".

Shimon Shamir, the Israeli Ambassador who is heavily protected while serving in Jordan, said at the delayed opening ceremony: "The [Jordanian] opposition to the exhibition is being used as an excuse to express dissatisfaction with the peace process, Jordan's peace treaty with Israel and even the existence of the state of Israel."

ATSUSHI TSUKADA/AP

Slick ruins fishing grounds

A member of a Japanese clean-up crew struggles through waters covered with thick oil spilt from a Russian tanker in the Sea of Japan. Local volunteers joined in yesterday as the operation was helped by the first break in the weather since the tanker split in two on January 2. Two planes, 14 ships and four helicopters are trying to track the spill which has damaged centuries-old fishing areas. In the port town of Mikuni, a local fisherman, said: "Everything is dead. This was the best part of the coast for abalone and all sorts of fish. They were the sweetest and the best." *(Reuter)*

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Patten dismisses Howe fears over angering China

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday rejected a warning by Lord Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, that elements in Hong Kong might attempt to foment a revolution in China.

During a visit to the colony this week Lord Howe, who in 1984 led the negotiations which produced the agreement to transfer Hong Kong to China in June, claimed that if Hong Kong attempted to "make itself a bridgehead for revolutionary change in China, it would do great damage to itself".

Lord Howe also urged the "leaders of Hong Kong opinion" not to "challenge the entire structure of the People's Republic of China and set *Hong Kong up as a generator* of change in China".

Mr Patten said: "I have been in Hong Kong getting on for five years ... and I think Hong Kong is as responsible and moderate a place as I have ever lived in ... I don't think anything in Hong Kong, any of its values ... represents a threat to anybody else."

Although Lord Howe declined to name them, his *phrase "leaders of public opinion"* appeared to refer to the Democratic Party, which won the majority of seats in last year's Legislative Council elec*tions.* The Democrats have been branded as subversives by Peking.

Lord Howe also called on the Hong Kong press not to give China "shocks" and, especially during the period leading up to the handover, to avoid emphasising bad news.

In contrast, Anson Chan, *the Chief Secretary, urged the* press to "stand up for its own freedom ... and to write stories and editorials that deserve to be written".

☐ **Patten plea:** Hong Kong was mounting an urgent appeal against an American court's refusal to extradite a fugitive to the colony because of its impending handover to China, Mr Patten said yesterday.

The *ruling* by the court in Boston undermined Hong Kong's efforts to convince the world that it would retain its freedoms, particularly judicial independence, after it reverts to China, the Governor said.

A US district court judge ruled on Tuesday against extraditing Jerry Lui Kin-hong, a former commercial director of British-American Tobacco Co (Hong Kong), to face multi*million* dollar *bribery* and conspiracy charges relating to cigarette smuggling. *(Reuter)*

Photograph, page 22

290 adrift in Pacific after fire on ship

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A STRICKEN charter ship carrying 290 passengers, many of them students, was reported yesterday to be drifting in the Pacific.

The 210ft *Maasmond* was sailing from the Kiribati island of Tarawa to Christmas Island when a fire broke out *in the engine room, leaving it* without power. The ship sent an SOS on Tuesday night.

A Royal New Zealand Airforce plane found the vessel yesterday afternoon drifting about 500 miles east of the *Kiribati,* a group of atolls about 3,000 miles northeast of Sydney. It reported that the ship had radioed that "it's in no immediate distress and has enough food and water for five days".

The ship was about two days sailing from the nearest island, and a tug was being sent to tow it back to Tarawa, Waysang Kumkee, the ship's owner, said. He added that if the passengers ran out of food "they can easily borrow some of the cargo [of rice and tinned food]."

Cash dash after van crash

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

PEDESTRIANS fought among themselves and cars ground to a halt in *Miami* yesterday when a Brinks armoured security van carrying $3.7 million (£2.2 million) worth of currency overturned and unburdened itself of much of its bank-bound cargo.

Coins and notes of various *denominations* — as high as $100 — were sent flying in the crash. The accident caused mayhem and a frenzy of what one local described as "dime pickin'". People fought one another as they scampered after the rolling coins and fluttering notes. Lieutenant Bill Schwartz, *of the Miami* Police Department, said: "Some of them were ready to kill each other."

The unexpected cash harvest happened after the van's brakes locked, sending the vehicle into a violent somersault as it was making its way over a bridge. Only a few of the more altruistic citizens bothered themselves about the wellbeing of the van driver and crew.

Girl hurt in jet lavatory

Johannesburg: Investigations were ordered yesterday after a nine-year-old girl was sucked into a lavatory on board a plane flying over South Africa.

Nombisi Lusu, who was unaccompanied on a South African Airways airbus from Johannesburg to Cape Town, underwent surgery yesterday *for serious internal and external* injuries. A spokesman for Airbus Industrie said it was the first time such an accident had occurred in one of its aircraft and a report had been sent to company headquarters in France.

Léon Els, for South African Airways, said that the girl managed to push a button for assistance from a flight attendant, but the pilot had to make *an emergency* descent to 12,000 ft before she could be freed.

هكذا من الأصل

Prince Rainier urges heir to marry and settle down as dynasty marks 700 years in power

Monaco celebrates with uneasy eye on future

From Ben Macintyre in Monaco

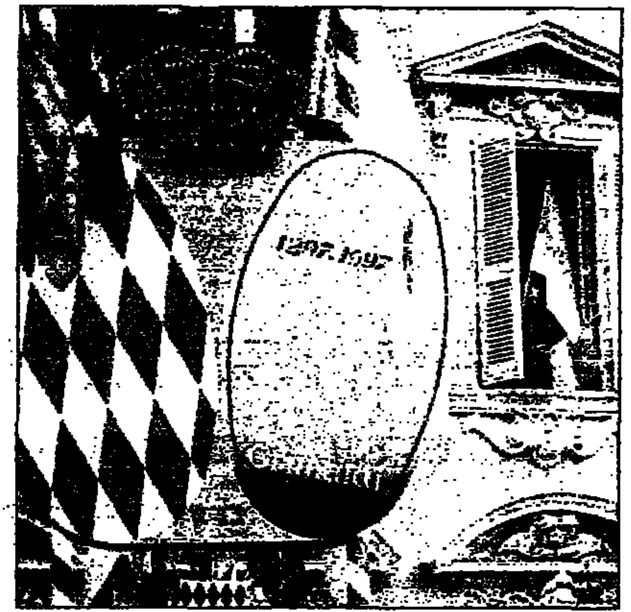
THE Grimaldi dynasty yesterday celebrated 700 years of absolute rule over its tiny principality on the Mediterranean as Prince Rainier III of Monaco urged his bachelor son and heir apparent to find a wife and settle down.

With a long, colourful and luxurious past but an uncertain future, Monaco began the lavish festivities that will continue for ten months. The tiny country remains quietly obsessed with the question of the succession and whether Prince Albert, 39, will continue the royal line: a preoccupation plainly shared by his father, twenty-ninth Grimaldi ruler.

The prince, who has shown no inclination to marry, "must sharpen his skills and gain some experience before he is ready to take over", the 73-year-old ruler said in interviews with French television on the eve of the anniversary. "There is also the question of marriage. I would like to see him take things in hand and start a family."

The crowd that turned out yesterday to fête Monaco's rulers was hardly large, but it was reverential, well dressed and, for the most part, exceedingly rich. About 2,000 loyal subjects (about a fifteenth of the principality's population), many wearing fur coats and clutching small dogs, clapped politely as Prince Rainier unveiled a statue of François Grimaldi, the dynasty's founder. Earlier, the monarch attended a Te Deum in Monaco's Cathedral with Prince Albert and Princesses Caroline and Stephanie.

The tax haven perched on the Côte d'Azur and its royal rulers have been through trying times recently and the anniversary celebrations were tailored as a low-key exercise in royal pomp, designed to illustrate that Monaco is less a playground for the idle and glamorous, but rather a serious economic centre with a glorious past. Prince Rainier declared: "Honouring our ancestors, our land and our traditions is the best way to continue looking into the future." Decked out in the red and white flags of the Grimaldis, Monaco appears on the surface to be unruffled by winds of change. There is no crime, no income tax and no unemployment. Winter's icy grip on the rest of France is barely felt here, although each shrub in the carefully tended herbaceous borders has been wrapped in a frost-resistant plastic bag, just in case. The royal bandsmen, with their feather-topped helmets, marched in perfect step and the white-gloved policemen saluted before answering tourists' inquiries.



The Grimaldi crown dominates the city decorations

In Monte Carlo, the roulette wheels in the casinos never stopped turning, even though Prince Rainier had issued orders that yesterday should be a national holiday for all.

But Monaco's future is less secure than might seem. Standing beside their father, the prince and princesses appeared dignified but grimly unsmiling, the hat worn by Princess Caroline to cover the baldness that has suddenly afflicted her being the most obvious symbol of their turbulent private lives. When Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican official responsible for relations with foreign states, referred to an "uncertain world" in his address, few in the congregation missed the reference.

Quite apart from the lurid scandals and tragedies that have struck the younger generation of Grimaldis, the tiny country is also passing through a painful economic decline. The state deficit is up and property prices are down. Investment has dwindled, tourism is falling and even the workers in the state-run casinos, faced with salary cuts, went on strike recently.

Before the celebrations were under way Prince Albert, heir to his father's absolute powers, talked of the need for constitutional reform. Just 5,000 of the 30,000 Monaco residents have full Monégasque citizenship and thus the right to vote for the 18-member National Council, which in any case has no legislative powers.

Before the Royal Family and congregation in the cathedral (only Monégasque citizens and permanent residents allowed in), Archbishop Tauran took as his theme, perhaps inevitably, the parable of the man who built his house upon a rock. Prince Rainier's warrior ancestor may have captured the fortress of Monaco in 1297 by the somewhat un-Christian ruse of dressing up as a monk to gain access, but yesterday's emphasis was solidly on the Grimaldis as upholders of the Roman Catholic faith.

"The Monégasques are incredibly loyal," Anne Demez, an American resident in Monaco, whispered. But that fealty may be rooted less in genuine affection for the Royal Family than in an acute awareness of the advantages, not least the absence of income tax, that come from living under its benign rule. After the first 700 years of Grimaldi rule, Monaco wants some guarantee of continuity.

JACQUES MUNCH / REUTER

Prince Rainier leaves Monaco's Cathedral yesterday with, from left, Princesses Caroline and Stephanie and Prince Albert

Hijack attempt highlights plight of Bosnian refugees

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

THE dramatic arrest of a Bosnian hijacker in Berlin this week has given a new edge to a bitter debate about the future of the 350,000 Bosnian refugees in Germany.

As the authorities start to repatriate them, so the Bosnians are resorting to desperate measures: many have gone underground, some have committed suicide and now a 39-year-old living in Rostock has hijacked a plane in the hope of obtaining a work permit.

The prosecutor formally laid charges yesterday against the man, who forced an Austrian Airlines pilot at knifepoint to break off a flight to Vienna and return to Berlin. Police pretended to engage him in talks through the open front hatch while commandos crept in through the back door and pushed him out.

The man, who had been resident in Germany six years, was earmarked for "Phase I" repatriation: single men and women drawing social benefits, between the ages of 18 and 55; and childless couples.

Rights organisations and the United Nations have appealed to Germany to delay the process. The Germans have made concessions: "traumatised people" are excluded from the first wave; family members have been allowed to go to Bosnia-Herzegovina, take photographs of their homes and return. The repatriation is said to be voluntary. However, those in Phase I who refuse to move soon find their benefits drying up.

There is little illusion among refugees here about the chaos awaiting them. About 60 per cent of the 110,000 flats in Sarajevo are in ruins and there are 30,000 landmines scattered around the country.

Pontiff holds line on priest's expulsion

By Richard Owen

THE Vatican yesterday stood by the excommunication of a "heretical" priest from Sri Lanka, despite his claim that his views on the need for a "tolerant, pluralistic Catholicism" had wide support in Asia and the Third World.

Father Tissa Balasuriya, 72, was excommunicated on the Pope's orders last weekend, after the Vatican had ruled that he was guilty of "deviation from the integrity of the truth of the Catholic faith".

Excommunication is a rare punishment in the modern Church. However, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the feared head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said Father Balasuriya had made a "series of grave errors" by questioning such tenets of faith as the immaculate conception and original sin.

Father Balasuriya, who says he is "still a priest and still a Catholic", angered the Pope by arguing in his book, *Mary and Human Liberation*, that no one faith has a monopoly on the truth, a heresy defined by the Vatican as "relativism". He also made clear his sympathy with "liberation theology", which the Pope has repeatedly condemned as Marxist, and with the idea of women priests, which is also anathema to the pontiff.

Christians are in a minority in Sri Lanka, where the population is mostly Buddhist and Hindu. However, Cardinal Ratzinger has issued a warning of the need to stop the spread of "relativism" in Asia, and particularly in the subcontinent.

The campaign against Father Balasuriya began three years ago, when the Catholic Bishops Conference of Sri Lanka asked him to explain his reference to the Virgin Mary as "a dehydrated figure" whose image had been used by "capitalist, patriarchal and colonalist Christians" to subjugate Third World believers. Father Balasuriya maintained that his thinking was "within the orthodoxy" of the Catholic Church.

A detail from the *Last Judgment*, a leading attraction of the Sistine Chapel

Sistine crush forces Vatican to ponder limits on visitors

From Richard Owen in Rome

THE new director of the Vatican museums has warned that the crush of visitors to the Sistine Chapel is becoming so overwhelming that the number of tourists allowed in to see Michelangelo's masterpieces might have to be limited.

"We may have to put a cap on the number of visitors to the chapel," Francesco Buranelli said. "We cannot afford to run risks after the recent restorations."

The chapel was decorated in the 15th century on the orders of Pope Sixtus IV. But the most famous frescoes date from the early 16th century, when Pope Julius II commissioned Michelangelo to paint his stupendous ceiling depicting the *Creation*, and 1541, when Michelangelo completed the vast *Last Judgment* on the wall behind the altar. Cleaning of the frescoes over the past decade, with the removal of grease, dust and candle soot, has revealed their original colours.

Signor Buranelli said numerous attempts had been made to channel visitors along colour-coded museum itineraries to ensure that they saw other Vatican treasures such as the Egyptian and Etruscan rooms, the Raphael rooms, the gallery of maps and the Borgia apartments. But many made straight for the Sistine Chapel, which is a magnet for all tourists in Rome. Many were not aware that it was still used for the election of popes.

The Vatican museums are only open to the public in the mornings, and queues are often more than half a mile long. Signor Buranelli told *Il Messaggero* the number of visitors to the chapel had risen to almost three million a year.

Lottery blunder draws Italians' fury

By Richard Owen

ITALIANS indulged in an orgy of self-criticism yesterday after the cancellation of a winning ticket in one of the country's biggest lottery draws for "technical reasons".

"Carramba, what a shambles," said *La Repubblica*, referring to the title of the lottery television show, *Carramba, What a Surprise*. Questions were tabled in parliament, and Vincenzo Visco, the Finance Minister, ordered an inquiry.

The winning ticket, worth two billion lira (nearly £1 million) was sold in Jesi, an industrial town in Marche. Winning numbers — as in Britain — are decided randomly by numbered balls which spin in a machine and drop into place. However, because of a blockage, only six balls fell instead of ten during Monday's draw, and a technician could be seen on television thumping the machine.

La Repubblica said the real "technical error" was that the state bureaucracy was unable to organise anything properly. The organisers had not cancelled the "winning" ticket until hundreds of viewers telephoned to complain that the machine had malfunctioned.

The unfortunate temporary "winner" and the runner-up, who was awarded the prize instead, remained anonymous. Psychologists said both could be suffering from shock, and the "millionaire for a day" might become aggressive or contemplate suicide.

The fiasco follows an incident in the northern province of Bergamo last May, when a suspiciously disproportionate number of winning scratch cards were sold in a bar in one small town. They were cancelled, and an investigation was launched into possible fraud or maladministration. Some of the "winners" had spent their supposed fortunes in advance, however, and had to return items such as Ferraris and designer clothes.

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Dutch strive to keep Britain on board as EU chugs towards political union

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE outlines of a new, looser-knit European Union are beginning to emerge after a bout of Dutch-led diplomacy designed to keep Britain fully engaged.

The key to satisfying Britain's qualms over political integration was outlined on Tuesday night to John Major by Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister and new president of the council of EU governments. Known in Euro jargon as "flexibility", the idea is to create machinery in a new "Maastricht II" treaty that would allow states to stay outside moves to deeper union by other members.

There was palpable relief in The Hague and Brussels after Mr Major said he was encouraged by Mr Kok's thinking and reassured him that he wanted Britain to "play a constructive part" in the EU despite the pull of its Eurosceptics. The British were pleased with Mr Kok's support for a multispeed arrangement that would retain veto rights for all states. This contrasts with a Franco-German plan, tabled last autumn, that would deprive states of a right to block moves towards new joint actions by others.

However, the Dutch-backed version of flexibility brought swift resistance yesterday from Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission. His spokesman said that the multispeed approach should only ever be used in exceptional circumstances.

The Dutch, who have the job of orchestrating a new treaty by the end of a summit in Amsterdam in June, decided to tackle the EU's "British problem" at the outset of their six-month presidency.

The forthcoming general election in Britain is compounding the stalemate in the EU's attempts to revamp itself, and London is being blamed by the other 14 states for delaying the negotiations for a treaty that is supposed to set the scene for enlarging the Union.

However, the Dutch desire to accommodate Britain is feeding anxiety in Bonn and Paris that The Hague, for all its traditional federalism, could push too far in Britain's direction for the sake of clinching a new treaty. "It looks as though we have a Dutch problem as well as a British one," a French diplomat said after this week's Dutch charm offensive towards London.

The French are accusing the Dutch of timidity, but Mr Kok's team is sceptical over President Chirac's newfound enthusiasm for such federal-minded ideas as pooling powers on immigration and police work. "It's impossible to know how the French will behave in the end-game," said Michiel Patijn, the European Affairs Minister who is chairing the intergovernmental conference (IGC), the negotiating body for the "Maastricht II" treaty.

Mr Kok said it would be "unforgivable" to imply that Britain was the source of all the EU's woes. Hans Van Mierlo, the Foreign Minister, attacked hypocrisy among all states over the vexed issue of the veto. "Everyone says, 'Yes, we want more qualified majority voting but not in my backyard'," he quipped.

The Netherlands' desire to encourage a counterbalance to the Franco-German axis is evident in its strategy towards the IGC. Mr Kok, a Social Democrat, says it is vital for Europe to keep the United Kingdom involved as the Union pursues the historical imperative of embracing the nations of the former communist bloc. "Europe without the UK is not complete."

Priest martyred by communists set on path to sainthood

BY ROGER BOYES

BEATIFICATION procedures for Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest murdered by communist secret policemen in 1984, are likely to be set in motion by the Vatican next month, according to the Polish Primate of the Roman Catholic Church.

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, who had a rather tense relationship with the young priest during his lifetime, let slip the Vatican decision in a meeting with Warsaw parishioners. The road to sainthood, however, is a long and bumpy one and it will probably take many decades before the priest — who was 37 at the time of his killing — becomes St Jerzy.

Even so, Catholic sources in Poland were pleasantly surprised at the speed of the proceedings. "This is a sign of the Polish Pope's continuing strong interest in the Popieluszko case," said a senior cleric. The Pope is sure to mention it during his pilgrimage to Poland between May 31 and June 10.

The murder reinforced the dismal message of martial law, declared in December 1981, that communist power in Poland (and by extension, the whole of Eastern Europe) could be maintained only by force. The trial of the secret police killers signalled the beginning of the end of communist rule, demonstrating the unbridgeable gulf between leaders and their followers. There is little difficulty in establishing that Popieluszko died a martyr's death. His anti-communist sermons at the Warsaw church of St Stanislaw Kostka attracted huge audiences after the declaration of martial law. As enthusiasm for underground resistance flagged, Popieluszko kept alive the spirit of the banned Solidarity union.

This came to irritate the Church hierarchy which, under the leadership of Cardinal Glemp, was convinced that martial law was the necessary "lesser evil" — the averted "greater evil" having been an armed Soviet invasion. Church policy was cautious, helping victims of martial law but trying to steer clear of pulpit politics. Popieluszko defied the warnings of the cardinal and bishops, arguing that the truth about the regime had to be clearly and publicly stated.

Popieluszko: preached against Polish regime

Eventually, a group of secret policemen in the anti-church department decided to act. The priest died in a bungled kidnap and assault in October 1984, although a post-mortem examination failed to determine the exact cause of death. Three policemen were jailed but the real masterminds were never brought to justice.

For the past 12 years priests friendly with Popieluszko have been appealing to parishioners for information that could demonstrate his ability to heal or make small miracles, which is part of the portfolio of a future saint.

Perhaps the biggest irony is that Cardinal Glemp has, by dint of the Pope's personal interest, become a champion of the young priest. Yet Popieluszko's diary clearly records his dismay after a tough meeting with Cardinal Glemp: "His charges against me completely knocked me off balance. Even the secret police during the interrogation showed me more respect . . ."

☐ *Roger Boyes is the author of* The Priest Who Had To Die. *Gollancz.*

Leading article, page 17

Russian forces 'steal millions'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S underfunded and demoralised military has received yet another blow to its reputation, amid fresh allegations that senior figures in the armed forces have been stealing millions of pounds.

As the Russian military launches a desperate lobby for more money to pay its underfunded servicemen, many men in uniform have taken matters into their own hands.

In the latest scandal, sources said yesterday that prosecutors were investigating the loss of hundreds of millions of pounds from the sale two years ago of two warships, the *Minsk* and *Novorossyisk*, to South Korea.

Major-General Yur Yakovlev, of the military prosecutor's office, said recently that some 16 generals and more than 80 colonels were under criminal investigation.

By far the most damaging allegations have been made against General Vladimir Semyonov, the former commander of land forces, who was suspended last month by President Yeltsin, accused of taking bribes in return for military contracts.

Spanish colonel shot dead by woman

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A YOUNG female assassin, believed to belong to Eta, the Basque terrorist group, shot dead a Spanish army colonel in Madrid yesterday, sparking fears of a ruthless new campaign of violence in the heart of the capital.

Barely an hour after the murder of Lieutenant-Colonel Jesús Agustin Cuesta Abril, which occurred in the Estrella quarter of the Moratalaz district, a car packed with explosives, thought to be the one in which the woman escaped, blew up outside a supermarket in the same district, injuring a passerby.

The killing of Colonel Cuesta took place at about 3.15pm yesterday. He had barely emerged from his car outside his house when a young women shot him in the jaw and forehead.

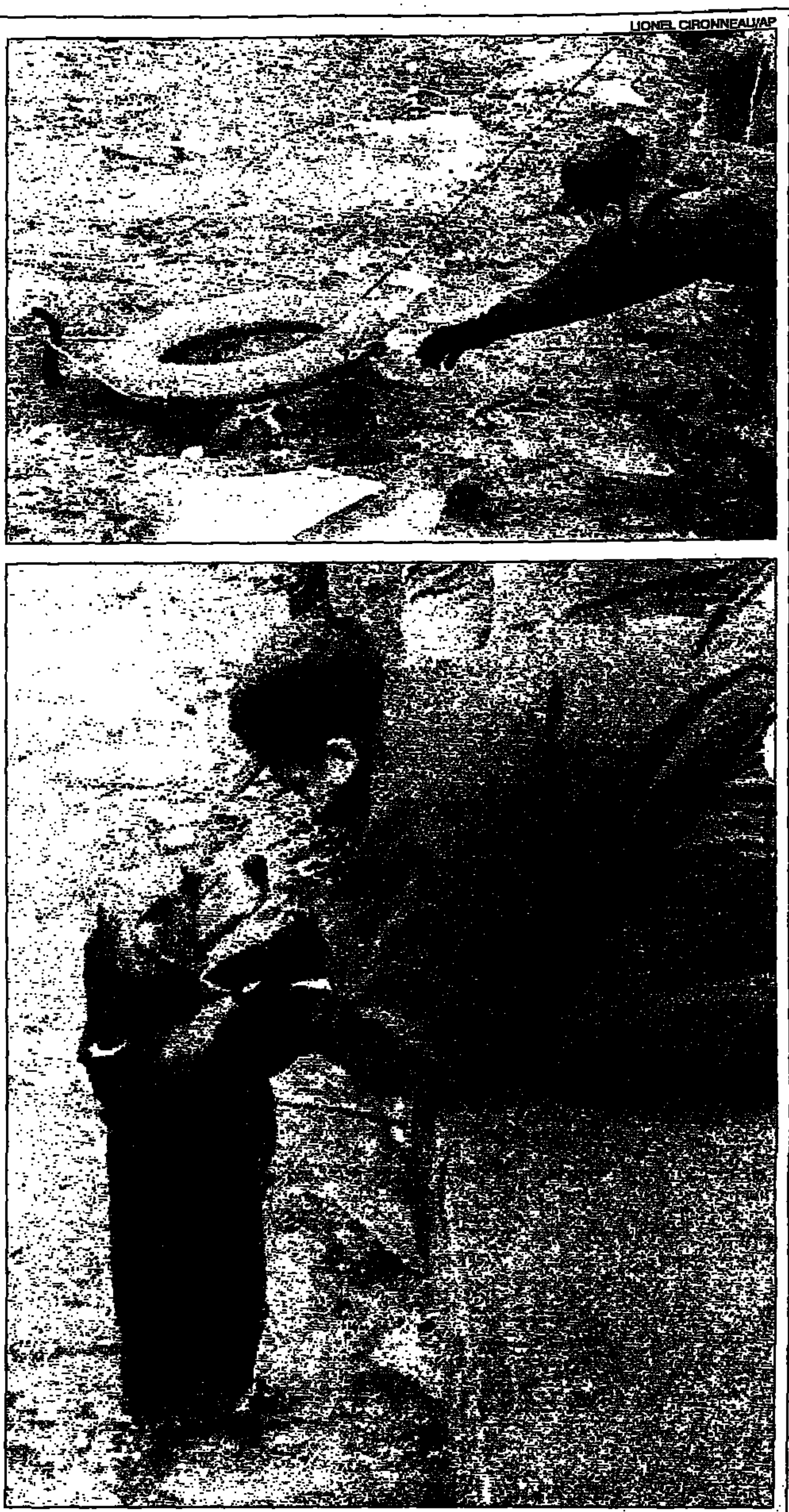
As he fell to the ground, she shot him again. Her accomplice, a young man in a dark anorak, fired once at the colonel's chauffeur, who was still in the car, injuring him slightly. The killer is believed to be Ainhoa Múgica Góñi or Maria Jesús Arriaga Arruabarrena, both members of Eta's "Madrid Command", whose "wanted" posters are plastered all over the city.

Ambulances rushed to the spot minutes after the gunwoman and her companion made their escape in a white Ford Fiesta, but the 49-year-old colonel was already dead. He belonged to the logistics wing of a cavalry regiment, and had served in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Just after 4pm, a car exploded outside a supermarket a few blocks away, injuring Carlos Blázquez Mulas, a Spanish Royal Guard.

The incidents happened three days after Jaime Mayor Oreja, the Spanish Interior Minister, expressed fears that Eta "would try to sow panic in Spain" in a desperate response to a series of arrests of top-ranking terrorists. Five people were killed by Eta last year, fewer than in any year since 1972.

LIONEL CIRONNEAU/AP


Tartuffe, a 14-month-old beagle, is rescued after falling into the icy waters of the Ourq canal in Paris yesterday. At least 30 people have died in France as a result of the two-week cold spell. Many of the victims have been homeless

WORLD SUMMARY

Policemen 'belonged to satanic sect'

Brussels: Four policemen belonged to the satanic sect linked to Belgium's child sex and murder scandal, a Flemish newspaper reported yesterday (Leyla Linton writes).

De Standaard said an officer with the Charleroi municipal police force had confirmed that three of the four were members of the Institut Abrasax, which police raided last month.

Angola pledge

President Mandela told Jonas Savimbi, the former rebel leader, that South Africa would help to overcome obstacles to peace in Angola. (Michael Binyon writes). He told Mr Savimbi, whose Unita group was armed and trained by the apartheid Government, that Pretoria would help Unita's reconciliation with the Angolan Government.

Imran Khan

A report (December 30) referred to unsubstantiated rumours that Imran Khan and his political party in Pakistan, the Movement for Justice, had received substantial campaign funds from his father-in-law, Sir James Goldsmith. Mr Khan has asked us to make clear that he has not received any such financial support.

Zaire denial

Paris: Alain Le Caro, a former security chief at the Elysée Palace here, has denied reports that he is putting together a mercenary "White Legion" of Europeans and Africans to help the Government of Zaire in its fight against Rwandan-backed rebels. *(Reuter)*

Le Pen order

Strasbourg: A French court here ordered Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Front, to pay one franc in damages for slandering the organisers of a rally against his party. *(Reuter)*

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Belgrade's rebel radio tunes in to discontent

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN BELGRADE

PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC is losing the propaganda battle to the rebel FM Radio B92, Belgrade's only professional independent station whose slogan is "Don't trust anyone — not even us".

On air round the clock, it now draws 700,000 listeners from the capital's population of two million. Its audience has doubled since demonstrations began seven weeks ago against Mr Milosevic's reversal of municipal election results. Serbia has no independent television and the regime's propaganda machine has vast assets at its disposal, including the country's leading newspapers, the state news agency and radio. But in Belgrade the Government's humourless, lugubrious voice is being undermined in an uneven contest against the 35 staff of B92 and their mix of news, music and satire.

Founded in May 1989 as a youth programme for an experimental six-month period, B92 continued to operate without any state-approved contract for the next seven years. Funded through its own ventures in publishing, video and film production, as well as private donations, it became essential listening for the capital's liberal urban elite, sickened by the socialist regime.

B92's editorial policy promotes democracy, social justice, human rights, respect for minorities and "undermining the morbid seriousness of the totalitarian regime in Serbia".

It was first closed down by Mr Milosevic in March 1991 when he crushed demonstrations in Belgrade. Though it reopened soon afterwards, the experience had hardened B92's opposition to the State. Closed down again early last December after it had been jammed for several days — although the Milosevic regime denies this — B92 was in action again two days later after intense international pressure, and was grudgingly granted a contract.

Two US-funded radio stations, Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America, had threatened to rebroadcast its reports unless B92 was reopened, and its highly placed defenders include Ivor Roberts, the British Ambassador to Belgrade, and Al Gore, the US Vice-President.

"We have succeeded in breaking the regime's monopoly of information," said Sasha Mirkovic, director of B92. "We are the only radio station that is reporting what is happening on the streets of Belgrade. When they banned us it was the greatest advertisement we could hope for."

As B92 has only a weak signal, it cannot be heard outside Belgrade and to extend its reach it set up a network of five other local radio stations to rebroadcast its news programmes. All have subsequently been put under pressure by the Government, either through jamming, forced takeovers of the management, or bans.

The station is also at a financial disadvantage. The average monthly salary for a state journalist is about £750, enough for a comfortable living by Serbian standards. Senior reporters among the B92 staff in their cramped, heavily barricaded tower-block offices a few blocks away from the state television centre earn £225 a month.

Yet the international attention focused on Belgrade and the city's support for the station have ensured its survival.

"If the State tried to close us down again it would have even more problems than it has now," said Veran Martic, the station's senior editor. "We are seen by the people to be not only a free medium but part of a movement fighting for freedom, and that combination is very attractive to the people of Belgrade, the foreign media and international community. Milosevic must consent to the protests' demands. He no longer has the Army, the Church or the capital. He is losing it fast."

Montenegro break threat

Montenegro, a junior partner in the Yugoslav federation, gave a warning that unless President Milosevic conceded to the opposition, it would boycott all federal institutions and may secede (Dessa Trevisan writes).

Relations have been strained since Mr Milosevic's wife, Mirjana Markovic, set up her own Communist party and criticised Montenegrin leaders. The Montenegrin parliamentary Speaker accused Mr Milosevic of damaging Yugoslavia's interests. Recently Montenegro has been going ahead with privatisation and launching diplomatic initiatives in Washington.

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Debate rages over Clinton's plea for sex trial delay

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

HEN a subdued Newt Gingrich left the House of Representatives on Tuesday after his narrow re-election as Speaker and apology for past behaviour, President Clinton called him to offer congratulaons. He should have thanked him as well. Mr Gingrich's admission of ethical misjudgments gives the President a liver of hope that the spotlight will be diverted from his own roblems.

On Monday the Supreme Court will consider whether to llow the case of William efferson Clinton v Paula Corbin Jones to proceed. Mrs ones is seeking $700,000 (£413,000) in damages for defamation and violation of her civil rights.

According to Mrs Jones, 30, former Arkansas state employee, she was enticed into Mr Clinton's hotel room on May 8, 1991, by his state troopers, where Mr Clinton, then state Governor, "nibbled" her neck, exposed himself and asked for oral sex. Mr Clinton says he does not remember the incident.

The President's embarrassment aside, the potential damage if the case proceeds is probably slight: stories of his womanising were well aired before the election. But unlike the other ethical charges against Mr Clinton, the Jones case raises a fundamental constitutional question: is the President above civil law while in office?

Mr Clinton's lawyers argue that the trial should be postponed until he has left office for fear of setting a precedent that would make future presidents the target of opportunistic legal actions. They also say that high-profile civil actions are distracting from the President's job of carrying out public business.

The arguments have aroused widespread unease. The principle that the presidency is not a monarchy, above the common people, is fundamental to American government, as is the legal pronouncement more than a century ago that "no man in this country is so high that he is above the law". To Mr Clinton's insistence that he is simply asking for the legal process to be postponed, his critics reply that justice delayed is often justice denied.

> ‘The evidence against the President is far stronger than the media have let on’

Support for the trial to proceed has grown in recent weeks, with a striking change of mood among leading commentators. *Newsweek's* Evan Thomas, who originally called Mrs Jones "some sleazy woman with big hair coming out of the trailer parks", argued this week that "her case is not weak enough to be simply or quickly thrown out of the courts". A widely quoted analysis in *The American Lawyer* in November held that "the evidence against the President is far stronger than the media have let on". In particular, more attention is now paid to the fact that Mrs Jones described the incident to four separate people almost immediately afterwards. They agree that the details on which her case is based are largely the same as those given at the time.

Her only significant claim to emerge later is that Mr Clinton's genitals had certain "distinguishing characteristics". Opinions differ over whether that observation is a ploy to force a settlement, so humiliating would be the task of disproving it. Even in a country where people pored over front-page diagrams of Ronald Reagan's colon, there is sympathy for an element of presidential privacy.

The Supreme Court judges have several options short of proceeding with the full trial. They could allow Mrs Jones's lawyers to take statements to preserve evidence, but delay the trial until Mr Clinton leaves office. They could halt the trial after the "discovery" stage, although that would require the President to give evidence under oath. Or the President could settle without admitting guilt.

Despite the confessional tradition in American politics, which necessitated Mr Gingrich's apology, many would be happy with one of these outcomes. But support for Mrs Jones and the principle that it should be possible to hold the President to account is now great; if the court agrees to Mr Clinton's request to postpone the hearings altogether, it will leave many uneasy.

BRUCE YOUNG/REUTER

Paula Jones is seeking $700,000 from Bill Clinton for defamation and violation of civil rights

Albright vows to nurture ties with Europe

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT yesterday renewed Washington's commitment to a strong transatlantic partnership and said America must remain a "European power".

In an opening statement before her confirmation hearings on Capitol Hill as US Secretary of State, Ms Albright pledged her commitment to European security and to the enlargement of Nato as well as the important shared goal of a democratic Russia.

She said that history had proved the importance of the transatlantic relationship after two world wars and argued that a larger Nato, no longer divided by the Iron Curtain, was central to future stability in the region in the post-Cold War era.

"America must remain a European power," she said. "Our purpose is to do for Europe's East what Nato did for Europe's West . . . to build a more co-operative and integrated Europe."

Her statements will bring welcome succour to Britain and other European governments, where there has been concern in the weeks since President Clinton's re-election that the United States now appeared more dedicated to stronger ties with Asia than with its former allies in Europe.

Mr Clinton's first foreign visit after the election was to the Pacific Rim, he has organised several bilateral meetings with President Jiang Zemin of China, and is being pressed by the American business community to push forward into the expanding Asian marketplace.

Ms Albright, who if confirmed as Secretary of State *would become the highest* ranking female in American political history, said during hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee that America must also remain a Pacific power and pledged to work with Congress to repay Washington's debt to the United Nations.

But the true focus of her opening remarks sent a clear message about her own enduring interest in Europe and its common security.

Born in Czechoslovakia, Ms Albright sees a unified Europe as something of a personal crusade. She is the only Secretary of State in living memory to speak Russian, not to mention French, Polish and, of course, Czech.

Ms Albright yesterday rejected any criticism of Nato enlargement. "We cannot and should not maintain the Iron Curtain as an artificial boundary after the Cold War," she declared. "What Nato must and will do is to keep open the door for membership to all European nations."

She will be treading the difficult path leading to Nato's summit meeting in July. The alliance then must decide which countries will join first and how much reassurance and security guarantees should be offered to Russia.

She declared yesterday that a democratic Russia must be the shared goal of the alliance and said America remained deeply determined to rid Bosnia-Herzegovina of its *ethnic* strife.

Ms Albright has been one of the principle defenders in America of the war crimes tribunal in The Hague and its ability to enable reconciliation in the Balkans and establish a precedent to deter future atrocities.

Although she was expected to face tough questioning from senators yesterday, Ms Albright's confirmation is seen as a certainty in Washington. Jesse Helms, the committee chairman and fierce opponent of many Clinton appointees, has already expressed his admiration for the new nominee.

Albright: crusade for a unified Europe

Stress not pesticides seen as cause of Gulf War Syndrome

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

BATTLEFIELD stress has emerged as an important factor in solving the riddle of Gulf War Syndrome, according to a White House report.

The report sharply criticised the Pentagon, saying its investigation of Iraqi chemical and biological weapons in the Gulf "lacked vigour, fell short on investigative grounds and stretched credibility".

President Clinton's advisory committee on Gulf War illnesses concluded that no single cause could be found for the ailments afflicting many Gulf veterans, including memory loss, fatigue, insomnia, headaches and muscle pains.

The report focused on psychological stress. It said recent animal and human studies had revealed numerous pathways connecting the brain to the rest of the body through which stress could find physical expression. The finding continued: "Stress manifests itself in diverse ways, and is likely to be an important contributing factor to the broad range of physiological and psychological illness reported by Gulf War veterans."

The report concluded that it was unlikely that hazards cited by veterans' groups — exposure to pesticides, vaccines, depleted uranium and smoke from burning oil wells — could explain their symptoms.

The committee also thought it unlikely that low-level exposure to chemical and biological weapons had caused long-term health effects. However, until last June the US Army had failed to disclose that thousands of troops may have been briefly exposed to nerve gas when an Iraqi ammunition dump was blown up. On Mr Clinton's orders, the committee will now oversee the Pentagon's intensified investigation.

Sailors safe after month in liferaft

BY QUENTIN LETTS

TWO men have survived in a liferaft for almost a month after their yacht sank in the Pacific near Hawaii.

Richard Enslow, 20, and David Summers, 25, were shipwrecked on December 9 while they were fishing. They survived by drinking rainwater and eating raw fish.

When they were rescued by a fishing boat on Monday their spirits were low, although physically they were in fair shape, suffering only slight dehydration. Their families in Honolulu had almost given up hope of seeing them alive again. Mr Enslow's father said: "I figured they were gone. It's kind of a miracle."

The men had carved farewell messages on a plastic paddle in the liferaft. "I hope to see you in my next life," read Mr Summers's message to his family. Mr Enslow's message said: "I hope I make it but if not give the family my love."

Their 48ft yacht, *Lady Aud*, sank in high seas soon after they decided to head back to port to get treatment for Mr Summers, who had dislocated his shoulder in an earlier fall. The weather continued to blow hard, and the liferaft was capsized a day later by a whale, with the loss of their remaining equipment.

"It was rain and more rain, big waves and lightning," said Mr Summers. "We'd stay drenched for days. We caught every kind of fish to eat."

Their difficulties were compounded when the inflated raft developed a leak and the pump fell overboard. The pair had to blow air into the raft every 20 minutes, with their sorely chafed lips. The process robbed them of sleep and created additional fears about falling prey to sharks.

After being rescued, the pair contacted their families. Mr Enslow's call was taken by his brother, who said he "nearly hung up the phone", with the shock of hearing the brother he presumed to be dead.

Romantic judge granted divorce

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

JUDGE Kimba Wood, the one-time candidate for US Attorney-General who became embroiled in a highly publicised marital dispute, has been granted a divorce.

Judge Wood, who was romantically linked to a Manhattan financier, Frank Richardson, won the divorce from her husband Michael Kramer. Last summer she claimed that Mr Kramer, a *Time* magazine columnist, had denied her sex for a year.

At the height of media interest in the case, Ms Wood, 52, was given the sobriquet "the love judge". Mr Richardson, whose diaries carried affectionate references to her, is in the throes of his own divorce. His claimed attachment to Judge Wood became the talk of New York society.

Judge Wood was previously best known for jailing Michael Milken, the Wall Street "junk bonds" financier, and appeared set for high political office until disclosures that she once hired an illegal immigrant as a nanny for her son. After extracts from Mr Richardson's diaries were made public in court, her reputation as a serious jurist was dented.

Wood: failed to become US Attorney-General

US tells Taleban to curb drugs

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE United States has told the Taleban Islamic militia in Afghanistan that it must control the flow of drugs if it is to expect any international recognition for its regime.

A strong message was given to Mullah Muhammad Hassan, the deputy leader of the Taleban ruling council, during meetings with John Holzman, a senior official at the US Embassy in Pakistan.

The talks, the highest-level contact between the United States and the Taleban since its capture of Kabul at the end of September, focused on the group's wish for greater acceptance. US State Department officials said yesterday that it was uncertain how much could be done by the Taleban leaders. Afghanistan is the second-largest producer of opium in the world.

Latin American 'assassin bug' killing thousands

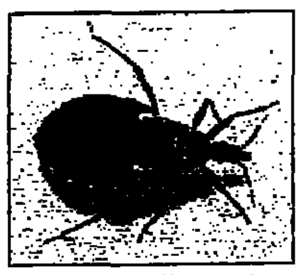
FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

A HEALTH study in Honduras has found that 300,000 of the country's 5.8 million population are infected with a blood-thirsty parasite that attacks the heart, weakening it and eventually causing heart failure.

Officials calculate 20 per cent of those infected will die from the incurable disease over the next few years.

"Some 65,000 people infected with the disease are in a terminal stage . . . and will die soon," said Virginia Figueroa, the Deputy Minister of Public Health in the impoverished Central American country. Most would die within two years, although a few could survive for a decade or more.

The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) estimates that 16-18 million people in Latin America — 4-5 per cent of the population — have been infected. The Washington-based organisation believes that the disease infects one million new victims annually — and causes 45,000 deaths — mostly in Central and South America. Occasionally it has appeared in the southern US, but is unknown elsewhere.



Bug has deadly parasite

The illness was identified by Carlos dos Chagas, a Brazilian doctor, in 1909. It is spread mainly by insects carrying the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*, but can also be contracted through a blood transfusion. The winged, mosquito-sized insect, *Triatoma infestans*, known as "the kissing bug" because of its mode of attack, or the "assassin bug", inhabits cracks in the walls of rural dirt-floor homes. It can also breed outdoors in the wild.

The insect drops on the beds of its sleeping victims and feeds on exposed facial skin near the mouth. The parasites are not transmitted through the bite of the insect, however; they are deposited on the skin of the victims with the insects' faeces.

"It's a bloodthirsty bug," said Daniel Epstein, of the PAHO. "It feeds at night and is attracted by carbon dioxide. It's pretty gross. When the victim scratches the insect bite, he inadvertently helps the parasite to penetrate the bloodstream."

The disease can take years to manifest itself. Initially it creates a weak feeling that often subsides for months or years. When it returns, the disease attacks the heart, the nervous system and the digestive tract. The damage to the heart is irreversible.

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Jill is a fictional character but her story is based on a real Midland customer. BM/45

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On Day Four of our guide to healthier eating, the view from the doctor's surgery

Why the classic British meal is good for you

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the benefits of a hearty traditional breakfast, why we sometimes need supplements to replace vitamins lost in mass-produced food, why we should trust our bodies to tell us what they need, and how to spot nutritional deficiencies

AN evening meal of a diet cola drink, burgers and chips, snatched while watching television, is unlikely to do much to improve either the future of the diner's arteries, or their family life.

But the misuse of such fast foods doesn't mean that they are necessarily dangerous. If "modern" food is as poisonous as its critics suggest, there should be evidence that there is less malignant disease in countries where agriculture is still primitive and the food is organically grown. In fact, the reverse is true. Our foods do contain potential carcinogens, but the amount doesn't seem to be increasing.

There is, however, a danger that trace elements and vitamins can be lost in the mass-processing of food, and it is then that we may need to turn to supplements. The medical profession has always maintained that a well-balanced diet should provide all that the body needs, but this approach ignores growing evidence that supplements can sometimes be beneficial. For example, extra folic acid in tablet form before conception can dramatically reduce the incidents of spina bifida, hydrocephalus, hare lip and other congenital disorders.

Folic acid also helps to protect adults from coronary heart disease. Likewise, supplements of Vitamins C, E and betacarotene reduce the likelihood of cardiovascular disease, and possibly some malignant diseases.

Folic acid is found in fresh oranges, peas and potatoes but however high the vegetable plate is heaped it can never provide enough of the vitamin to reduce the incidence of damage to babies.

A diet should be rich in Vitamin C, found in fruit and vegetables, and Vitamin E, which also occurs in vegetables, as well as olive oil and nuts.

Scurvy is the best known of the vitamin deficiencies. It was once famously the curse of mariners but it is still not extinct and is occasionally diagnosed in tramps, squatters, recluses and extreme food faddists. The cause, inadequate Vitamin C, leads to an increased number of infections, poor wound healing, and possibly greater numbers of heart cases and malignant disease.

Deficiency in Vitamin B1, thiamine, is also more common than might be expected, and even occurs in people, particularly women, who take trouble to have what would seem to be a healthy diet. The early signs of thiamine deficiency are ill-defined but include irritability, loss of appetite, vague abdominal discomfort and poor memory. Diets deficient in any one of the vitamin groups are frequently short of others in the same group and those taking them should be treated with a Vitamin B complex tablet.

Breakfast is an ideal time to start to correct dietary deficiencies. Fruit juice provides vitamins, porridge is heavy with starch, and fish, eggs or lean bacon all provide protein and help to correct the blood sugar level.

A traditional lunch of fish or meat, two vegetables, followed by fruit or pudding supplies a good balance of protein, fat and carbohydrate, and a satisfactory mix of vitamins.

Tea has more medical value than is usually assumed. Taken with skimmed milk, it provides important flavanoids, the antioxidants which help to preserve the arteries, and appreciable quantities of the Vitamin B complex, as well as 16 per cent of the daily recommended intake of calcium.

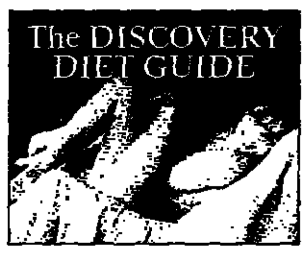
Dinner in the evening should be neither too late, too heavy nor too rich in fats. But even if we don't copy the late continental dinner, we can in Britain learn from the Mediterranean diet. A greater reliance on olive oil rather than animal fats, a higher intake of fruit, less binge drinking, but more wine, particularly red wine, would all do us good.

Many people associate the typical British diet with overeating, but there is no reason why a well-balanced, traditional menu need promote gluttony. More malnutrition is now diagnosed among food faddists than in the rest of the community, and too often they have followed the advice of one crank after another until their diet is deficient in essential nutrients.

Fortunately, our senses of taste and smell have evolved so that we enjoy our food. Our sense of hunger encourages us to feed sensibly and well and we should forget much of the unsubstantiated opinion we read. Our diet should provide not only the fuel to keep our essential organs working, but also the raw materials out of which our bodies are built.

The human body is made of protein, and amino acids — which are the constituent parts of protein — have to be derived from our diet so that muscles and life-preserving organs can be maintained. First-class proteins — that is, those that the body particularly needs — are found in meat, eggs, cheese, and milk. The traditionally accepted view is that about half a person's daily intake of protein should be in this first-class form.

It is possible to be a vegetarian, and to survive on vegetable proteins, but this takes careful thought and planning. An interesting piece of research several years ago involved a group of sportswomen, mainly vegetarian, at an American university. As with many women who take an inordinate amount of exercise, they had stopped ovulating and menstruating. It was found that when the women were given steaks or other meat two or three times a week, their periods returned. Likewise in Europe after the Second World War, fertility was improved when animal protein again became available.



Unless vegetarians are very careful, their diet may lack certain vital constituents, in particular iron Vitamins D and B12. Iron contained in vegetables is less well absorbed than it is from meat, and anaemia is also commonly found among strict vegetarians.

One disadvantage of red meat is that a certain amount of fat is eaten at the same time. Fat is, however, an integral part of the well-balanced diet. It is not uncommon in medical practice to see patients who have damaged their health by following an absurdly low-fat diet. Fats form part of all healthy cells, they are essential for the absorption of the life-preserving vitamins, they are part of the structure of hormones, and they are rich in energy. Weight for weight, each ounce of fat provides twice as much energy as does one ounce of carbohydrate. And fat has another important quality in that it makes other foods palatable by lubricating a meal and enhancing the flavour of many foods.

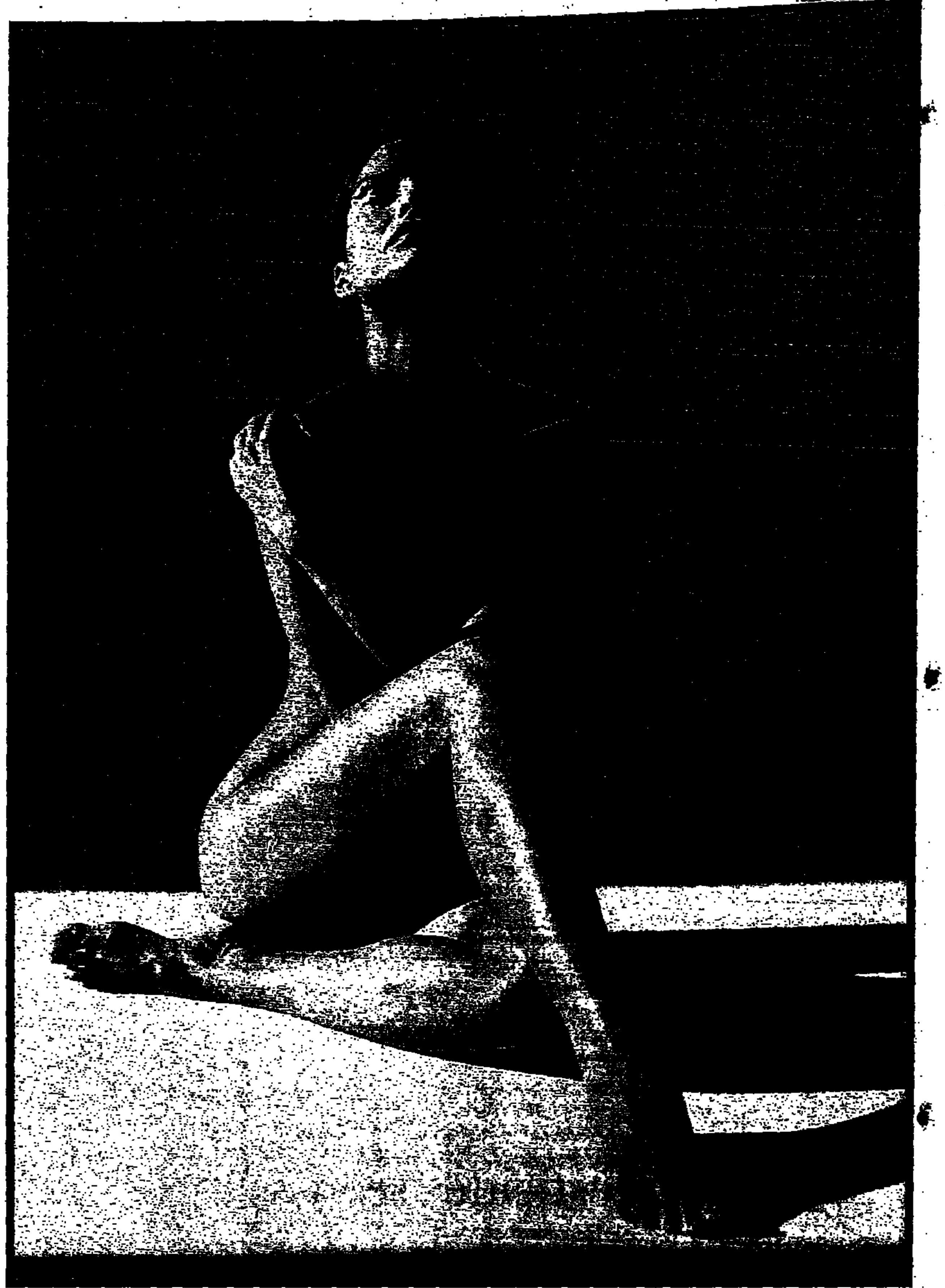
Fats should not form more than 30 per cent of the daily diet, whereas at the moment the average intake in the West is about 40 per cent. Fats are divided into saturated fats, mainly derived from animals, and unsaturated fats, contained in most, but not all, vegetable oils. The proportion of saturated fats to unsaturated fats should be reduced.

Carbohydrates provide the glucose which is the primary source of energy for the human machine. Just as it is a mistake to cut back too drastically on fats, so it is to deny the body carbohydrates. The phrase "empty carbohydrates" is particularly misleading; we would not survive without them.

The most exciting research into nutrition over the past decade has involved the antioxidants. These neutralise the free radicals which damage a body's healthy cells. People whose diet is rich in antioxidants show increased resistance to heart and malignant disease. Many people, particularly the elderly, may be at an increased risk of developing these diseases because of a low anti-oxidant intake.

Fortunately, red wine, some beers, as well as tea, contain flavonoids which have strong anti-oxidant powers. But tea and alcohol account for only a fraction of the necessary anti-oxidant intake. Vitamins B and C are found in green vegetables and highly coloured fruit, as well as in peppers and a host of herbs. Vegetables grown in soil rich in some trace elements, such as selenium, also provide antioxidants.

The World Health Authority recommends five portions of vegetables or fruit daily. Few will be able to follow this advice, but the average person in Britain would do well to have breakfast, lunch, and tea, such as they had when children; add rather more vegetables than fruit, rather less fat, and a moderate intake of red wine and the appropriate vitamin supplements.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To maintain health it is essential that we take in sufficient nutrients and do not take dieting to extremes

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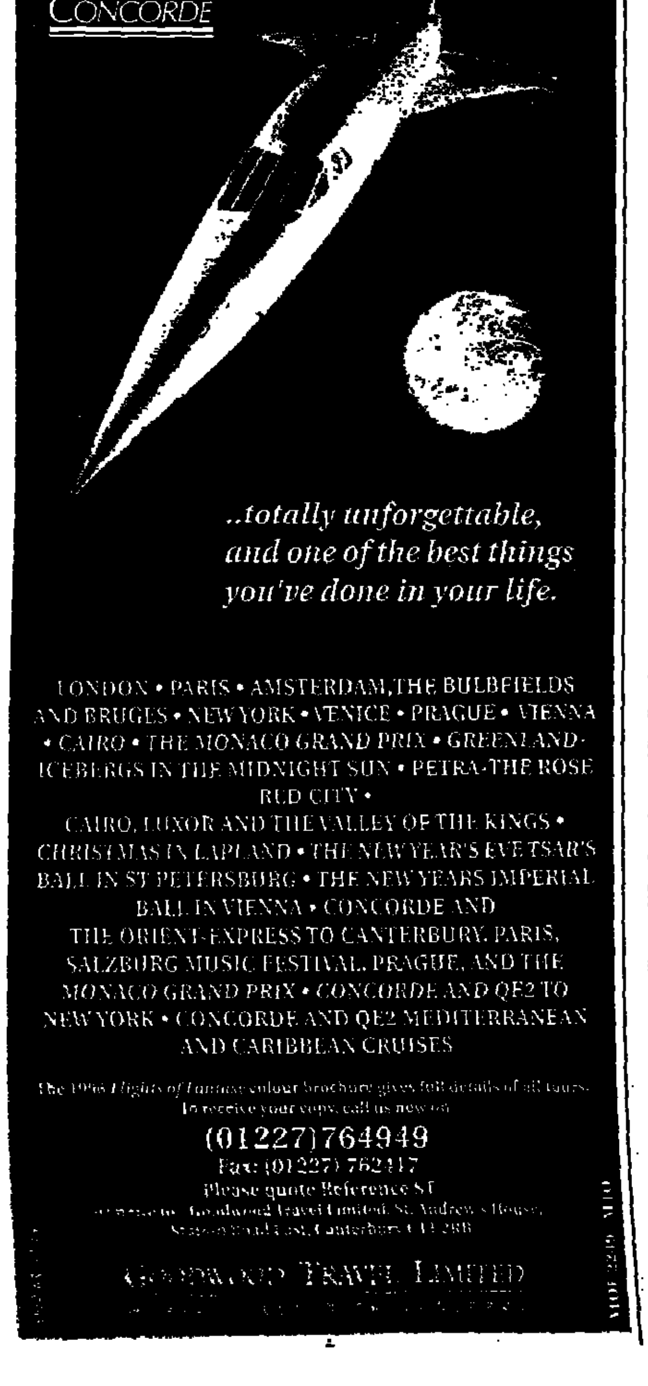

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Manipulation — or just a word in the right ear?

The hidden world of the lobby is explored on television tonight. Here, Sir Tim Bell makes a rare defence of his profession to **Michael Cockerell**

WARREN HARRISON

"We behave properly, we don't want improper relationships. It's horrible telling fibs"

SALLY SOAMES

Margaret Thatcher once described Sir Tim Bell as "my line to the British people"

Sir Tim Bell likes to operate away from the public gaze. His trade is influence and his clients are big men: presidents and princes, captains of industry and media barons. Although he prefers to be a hidden hand, Bell talks for the first time about his work in *A Word In The Right Ear*, a television documentary about political lobbyists.

The past 20 years has seen a remarkable growth in lobbying in Britain. Lobbying is an industry worth more than £500 million a year. At last autumn's party conferences there were more lobbyists than delegates.

Bell believes that the recent cash for questions stories have given the whole business an undeservedly sleazy image. "It isn't about fancy footwork and sinister manipulation. Its purpose is advocacy, making the best of a case, saying how it should be best put across, gathering intelligence, identifying the weak points in your opponents' arguments, deciding who to target, seeking to open doors and knowing how to put the pressure, say through the media.

"When you are lobbying government for a change in the law, you try to present it as though it would be an advantage to the powers that be to change it. The whole skill of lobbying is to take the client's views and present them in the most persuasive way."

With his range of companies under the umbrella Chime Communications, Bell flits easily between the inter-related worlds of financial PR, corporate strategy, political lobbying and crisis management. He pioneered the integrated communications strategy for companies, arguing that everything they are seen to do contributes to their image and can affect the success rate when lobbying government.

The companies Bell commands form the SAS of the lobbying world. The grand staircase at his Mayfair offices is a pictorial record of friends and clients in high places. The wall is lined with huge, colour blow-ups of such titans as Margaret Thatcher, Rupert Murdoch, F.W. de Klerk, the Sultan of Brunei and Lords Weinstock, Hanson and King.

Bell tends to deal with the top level of his 458 different clients and companies personally. His specialist agency, Lowe Bell Political does some of the more detailed political lobbying. "We act as a bridge, an advocate or a hired hand," says Bell. "We will give advice to anybody who we think we can do a decent job for and who will reward us properly."

Bell says the people who work for him know the political system from the inside. Members of his staff have worked for the Brussels Commission, or in Whitehall, in the political parties or as advisers to Cabinet ministers.

'Its purpose is advocacy, making the best of a case'

Two of his men have worked as the most senior political advisers to successive Prime Ministers. Stephen Sherbourne to Mrs Thatcher and Jonathan Hill to John Major. Both went back to help Mr Major with his re-election campaign as leader 18 months ago — and both are expected to be seconded in the coming election. Mr Major's current political secretary, Howell James, is one of Bell's closest friends; Bell first got him a job in the Cabinet Office ten years ago, and paid his salary.

Both Bell and James were hovering discreetly in the wings as the Prime Minister gave the first of his new-style presidential press conferences this week. Bell is back in favour with the Tory high command after a period in the wilderness following Mrs Thatcher's departure.

I asked Bell how useful it was having his people in No 10. "It's extremely useful, because they will probably take your call. Whether they will supply you with information is another matter. Half our business is knowing who to talk to."

And it must also be useful, I suggested, when they leave No 10 and come back to work for you. "Of course it's to our advantage, but not in the sense — which I'm sure you're not implying — that they are able to pick up the telephone to the PM and say 'Now, look here, PM, why don't you support this lobby?' It is just crass to imagine that such a conversation would ever take place. You would ruin your relationship and you would not be invited to discuss any matter with the Prime Minister ever again."

Bell first built up his connections 20 years ago when he was chairman of Saatchi and Saatchi, which had landed the Tories' advertising account for the 1979 election. He struck an immediate rapport with Mrs Thatcher, who later described him as "my line to the British people". Bell helped her to three successive victories and she came to regard him as a good luck charm. "He possesses more sensitive antennae than most politicians. He could pick up quicker than anyone else a change in the national mood. I relied a great deal on his presentational advice," said Mrs T. In turn, he would send her lavish bouquets when he knew she was down.

It was under the impetus of Mrs Thatcher's brand of market economics that lobbying burgeoned in the Eighties. Many of the recent allegations of lobbying sleaze have their origins in that period. Bell says that whatever other lobbyists may have done, he and his companies would never lie, cheat or bribe. "We behave properly, we don't want improper relationships. It's horrible going round telling fibs; you can never remember what they are and you spend your life in a deceitful, devious sort of mood. I hate all that. I've spent years being told the advertising industry makes people buy products they don't want. I've spent years being a PR man and being told I manipulate the media. I now have a lobbying company and I'm being told we go round the place bribing governments to change policy to suit our clients' arguments. I've never seen it and I've never experienced it."

Bell has the ability to laugh at himself and his personal charm is such that, according to legend, dogs cross the road to be patted by him. Against that, he has been credited with spectacular gaffes — such as David Mellor's "happy family" photocall during the Antonia de Sancha affair.

Bell could lay claim to a string of successes — but he prefers not to do so. Partly because he won't breach client confidentiality. And partly, he says, because "we are only ever part of a team". But he does talk about his involvement in what he calls "the greatest lobbying campaign of all in terms of reaching out and touching everybody in this country — the lobby that pushed for the National Lottery". He says G Tech — the American parent company of Camelot — realised that it would be worth very big money to win the franchise. So they appointed as lobbyists both Bell's and other lobbying agencies. And they hired a number of former Tory Cabinet ministers to advise on how Government took decisions. "They were buying everybody up so their opponents couldn't use them ... I can't see anything wrong with it. Although I haven't won the lottery — yet," Bell laughs.

In some ways, of course, he has. He is now the largest private shareholder in Chime Communications, which has grown into a £20 million publicly listed company. But what would Bell's future be if his latest attempts at marketing the Tories to the voters comes to grief, and he is faced with a Labour government?

"There are those who say there'll be a greater need for lobbyists, because most of industry is Conservative and therefore they'll need to have people to explain to them how the Labour Party works."

Meanwhile, Lowe Bell Political has co-operated with the Post Office workers' union, the UCW, to prevent the Government from privatising the Post Office.

Privately, he offers tantalising glimpses of his encounters with Tony Blair. He tells how he gave informal advice when Blair asked him at a party how he should go about becoming leader, shortly before John Smith's death. "Don't push for it, just let it happen naturally — and if the opportunity comes, grab it with both hands," was Bell's counsel.

He says of Blair: "I have met him twice, but I don't know him at all. Anybody who gets to be Leader of the Opposition and may be Prime Minister has got to be a person of considerable genius." But what did he make of Blair's public promise to control lobbyists. "If you want to stamp out lobbying, it would be a bit like John Wolfendon and prostitution. He didn't stamp it out — he made it done behind closed doors. So probably the much more sensible route would be to try to make sure it is as open as possible."

● *Michael Cockerell's* A Word In The Right Ear, *BBC2, 9.30 tonight*

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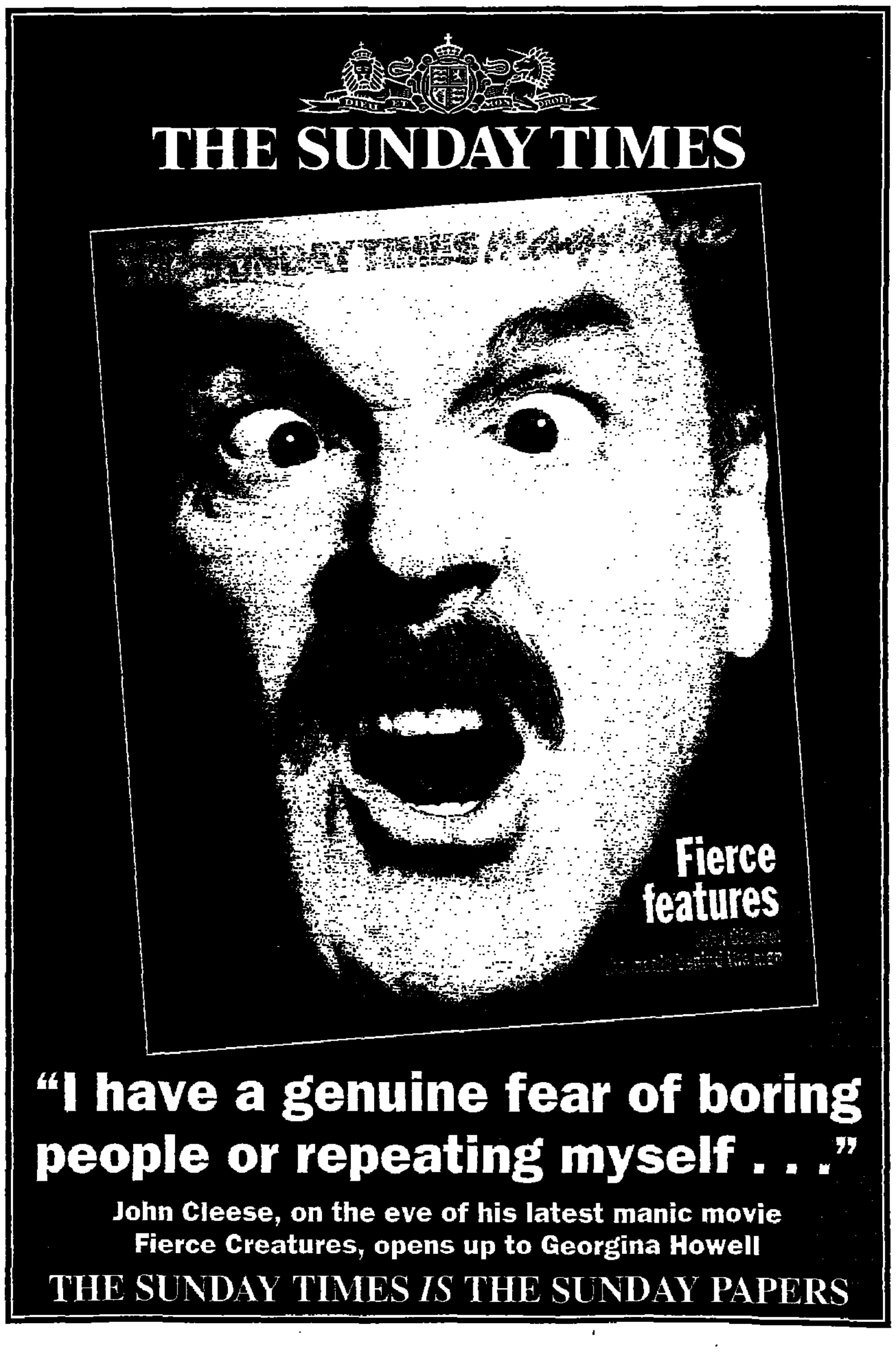


THE SUNDAY TIMES

"I have a genuine fear of boring people or repeating myself . . ."

John Cleese, on the eve of his latest manic movie Fierce Creatures, opens up to Georgina Howell

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

What Scots have against the Queen

The Crown is associated with the Tories, says **Magnus Linklater**

I doubt if we are any wiser about the state of the monarchy after Tuesday night's ill-tempered, raucous, trivial and confused debate on ITV. This was sound-bite television at its most puerile. Even the widely touted claim that 2.5 million people cast their votes is open to question; multiple calls were not only possible but frequent, and others complained that they were unable to get through at all. Bob Worcester, of the MORI organisation, tells me he tested the system by phoning ten times and managed to record his vote on all but three occasions. "I was disenfranchised three times," he complains in mock outrage.

But in one respect at least the vote was interesting. While most of the United Kingdom came out in favour of the monarchy by a respectable two-thirds majority, Scotland bucked the trend. The vote was 56 per cent against, with only 44 per cent in support. This is a surprising, but not a freak result. MORI's own polling, based on proper sampling, suggests that there is now a 15 per cent difference of opinion between Scotland and the rest of Britain when it comes to the role of the monarchy. Even Wales shows no sign of going as far; its result broadly echoed that of England and Northern Ireland.

For any member of the Royal Family who was glued to the box during the evening, this must have been the most disappointing result of the night. They have invested a lot in Scotland — physically and emotionally. It is a place they feel at home. They travel north as often as possible, and not just to shoot furred animals. Prince Charles finds solace on its far-flung islands; the Queen retreats with relief to Balmoral; the Queen Mother is never happier than in her Caithness castle, and the Princess Royal is often at Murrayfield to support the Scottish rugby team; indeed, to judge by her son's sporting prowess, he could be wearing the blue jersey himself in the not too distant future.

On the whole they are well-received. The days when letterboxes were blown up because they bore the insignia E II R (the Queen is Scotland's first, not second Elizabeth) are long past. The Queen has not been rudely treated in public since she was booed by students at Stirling University in 1972, an event which caused something of a national scandal. The crowds may be thinner these days, but it would be hard to claim that Scotland has become a hotbed of republican sentiment. Having helped to build the British Empire and gone to war on its behalf, the Scottish nation has not, until recently, had much difficulty in considering itself British or supporting a British monarch. Even the Scottish Nationalists, who have sometimes toyed with republicanism, have been careful not to challenge the Queen's status directly. Only one of the party's MPs believes she should be replaced; the rest talk vaguely of reassessing the role of the monarchy in the event of independence.

What has changed is not so much the institution that the Queen represents as the nation she rules. To many Scots, and particularly the young, the term Great Britain has become a blurred and even alien concept. They think of themselves as Scottish rather than British, and they associate the Queen with an English establishment run from London rather than someone who represents the whole United Kingdom. Because there is a long tradition of Scottish democracy, bound up with a kirk which has never acknowledged the monarch as its head, this touches a familiar nerve. Acknowledging authority from a distance has never been a strong Scottish trait.

As the political climate has changed, with election after election demonstrating Scotland's growing disaffection from the Conservative Government, the monarchy has been drawn into the debate. It represents, after all, the status quo, a phrase which is now synonymous with Tory policy. When the Queen used the occasion of her Silver Jubilee in 1977 to remind her subjects of the "benefits which Union has conferred", it was seen as a fair statement of what she stood for. Were she to make the same speech today, there would be outrage. It would be seen as an overtly political statement on behalf of the Conservative Party, because to speak up for the Union is to oppose constitutional change. She would sound just like John Major.

Scotland is not a hotbed of republican sentiment

All this is bad luck for the Queen herself, who would probably be quite at ease ruling over a devolved Scotland, and for her successor, Charles (who is Duke of Rothesay as well as Prince of Wales), who is a positive enthusiast for reform. It also plays into the hands of the more virulently anti-English wing of the Scottish National Party, which will see the poll as evidence that the tide is flowing in their favour. They will argue that if the Scots want to drop the monarchy, the fastest way of achieving that is to vote SNP. I would not be surprised to see the issue of the Royal Family featuring large in their election campaign.

But it would be premature, and wrong, to conclude from the evidence of one poll that Scots have turned against the monarchy and are on the road to republicanism. What the poll does suggest is that their attitude to constitutional issues is different from their English counterparts', and that they are more inclined to question the role the monarch should play. They sense that change is finally due in the way they are governed. And they think that the Queen's role in Scotland may well have to change too.

" WE WANTED YOU TO FEEL AT HOME, SAHIB . . . "

Go on rocking the boat

I came out of Guys and Dolls feeling like a million dollars — and so did an audience 50 years younger

William Rees-Mogg

My first visit to the theatre came one Christmas in the early 1930s. I was taken to see *Cinderella* at the Prince's Theatre in Bristol. I can remember the principal boy, a rather athletic young blonde who was said to be the sweetheart of the dashing amateur captain of the Somerset cricket team. I have been going to the theatre ever since, and saw John Gielgud's wartime *Hamlet*. I also saw Rex Harrison in the first London run of *My Fair Lady*.

Last Tuesday night I experienced a moment of delight I have never known in the theatre before. We went to see Richard Eyre's production of *Guys and Dolls* at the Royal National Theatre. It is a revival of his production of 1982. I was then chairman of the Arts Council; I saw that production at least three times, partly because I enjoyed it so much, partly because it was my job to show people who might influence arts funding that the Arts Council supported work they would enjoy. Where Richard Eyre has changed the 1980s production, it has, I think, been for the better — in particular, the Havana scene worked better than I remember it. The great difference however was in the reaction of the audience.

In the 1980s, the audiences for *Guys and Dolls* were broadly contemporary with the piece itself, which was first produced in 1950 on Broadway. Few of them would have seen the original production, but most would have known with the music from the long-playing record; many would have seen the London production or the 1955 film, with Marlon Brando as Sky Masterson and Frank Sinatra miscast as Nathan Detroit. The 1982 production was brilliant, but the mood of the audience then was at least partly nostalgic: we were revisiting our youth of 30 years before.

On Tuesday evening, the audience was a younger one, partly no doubt because the school term was about to start after the Christmas holidays. There were A-level students, as well as some younger children with their grandparents. Something like a third of the audience were in their thirties or early forties, and would not have been born when *Guys and Dolls* was first produced; another third seemed to be in their teens or twenties, so perhaps their mothers had not been born in 1950.

It was when Clive Rowe, as Nicely-Nicely Johnson, was singing *Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat* that a moment came that I had never known before in the theatre. Of course, this song has always been a showstopper, indeed it is the classic showstopper, inevitably followed by several encores. In the 1982 production it was sung with great success by David Healy, a white singer. This time the song seemed to take off in a quite different way — Clive Rowe has a voice like a black Stradivarius. The young audience joined in with rhythmic clapping. After about the sixth encore, and in demanding a seventh, the audience gave what can only be described as a roar of triumphant delight. The noise was the same as greets a decisive Cup Final goal at Wembley.

Clive Rowe is a great singer whom I can remember playing the part of Mr Snow in *Carousel*, another National musical. Richard Eyre has created the definitive modern production of *Guys and Dolls*. But it was the strength of *Guys and Dolls* itself that did it. What I realised on Tuesday night was that *Guys and Dolls* is a genuine classic. It stirs the deepest emotions of the audience, but it has done so for successive generations, not just for its own.

The great American musicals of the mid 20th century, like the great plays of the Elizabethan theatre, were all composed in a brief period. The height of the Elizabethan theatre runs from 1580 to about 1610, some 30 years. The American musical starts with *Showboat* and perhaps ends with *Camelot*: after that the character changes. That is a period of less than 40 years, from later 1920s to the early 1960s.

There seem to be three essential elements, at least in those musicals which have become classics. They are largely Jewish in composition, their music is based on black rhythms, and they deal with major American myths. *My Fair Lady*, the only Anglo-American musical in this classic canon, is based on the English myth of class. Edna Ferber who wrote the original novel from which *Showboat* was created for the stage, was herself Jewish. *Showboat* is the great original from which all the later classical musicals derive. The best of the non-Jewish songwriters was Cole Porter, and he was strongly influenced by his Jewish contemporaries.

With such strong Jewish and black influences, these musicals are the cultural creation of two suffering peoples. Suffering is the common characteristic of all great art; one sees it in Shakespeare, as one does in Rembrandt or in Goya. Art without a sense of pain only speaks of a superficial part of human experience. Yet these are also happy and confident musicals. Almost all of them celebrate the triumph of human courage and romantic love over painful difficulties.

In the pre-Pill age, it was possible to write about romantic love directly, without the cynicism of modern years. Frank Loesser, who wrote the songs and music of *Guys and Dolls*, thought it was his love songs that mattered. He said he was in the romance business and asked his friends, "Which song made you cry?" The relationship between Nathan Detroit and Miss Adelaide brings a pre-1960s innocence to the love affair of a professional gambler and a nightclub chanteuse. Their songs bring a catch to the throat.

The myths are all very powerful, and most of them relate to American history. *Showboat* has the myths of the Mississippi, of the theatre people, of the old America. *Porgy and Bess* has the black experience. *Oklahoma!* has the development of the West and the conflict for land between farmers and cowboys. *Guys and Dolls* has the urban myth of the gangsters and the people who have to get by in the big city environment. All are stories of resilience and survival. Whether they were working on the Mississippi, developing the West or enduring the hazards of New York, these people were historic pioneers. The Americans of the period from 1850 to 1950 had to be hewn out of rock, not moulded out of plastic. Hollywood used the same American myths, which were personified in some of the greatest stars, in the Western manhood of John Wayne, in the urban street skills of Bogart, in the Irish courage of Cagney, in the innocence of Judy Garland's *Wizard of Oz*. The golden age of Hollywood coincided with the golden age of the American musical theatre, and perhaps with the golden age of America.

Richard Eyre's production of *Guys and Dolls*, and the whoop of triumph which rewarded Nicely-Nicely Johnson on Tuesday night, have convinced me that we have got these musicals wrong. We have understated their importance. They are not merely popular works, likely to live for a generation and then be forgotten. They derive from deep, ethnic traditions as well as from authors and composers who knew their business. They deal with the fundamental emotions of human life, in their honest and not in their decadent or pretty form. They speak of the individual courage that built America, and of the millions of pioneers, not merely of the exceptional leaders. They speak of a warmer, tougher, more heroic world than the one into which we have lived. I came out of *Guys and Dolls* feeling like a million dollars; so did a throng of teenagers 50 years younger than myself. I think the Queen should go and see it to cheer herself up about the future of the country. But she should choose a night when the theatre is full of teenagers about to go back to school.

Secure jobs do matter

Peter Hain on Labour's new role for unions

It's just "a state of mind" according to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade; a "myth" according to Eric Forth, the Employment Minister. Yet job insecurity now hangs menacingly over almost every employee. According to a study by International Survey Research, just 43 per cent of people in employment feel secure today, compared with 76 per cent when John Major became Prime Minister in 1990.

The Government's own Labour Force survey shows that more than half those lucky enough to get a job are back on the dole again in less than a year. A recent survey by my office showed the difficulties faced by non-permanent staff in getting mortgages. Despite genuine attempts by building societies and other lending institutions to adapt to job insecurity, they were forced to discriminate to protect their assets, as the Nationwide frankly told me. No wonder, despite an economic upturn, that there is no "feel-good" factor.

So what is to be done? This week one of Britain's top companies, Blue Circle Cement, announced a five-year job security agreement with two top trade unions, the GMB and TGWU. This allows employees and their families to plan for the future in return for flexibility and efficiency measures allowing the company to be competitive. Staff were happy to trade modest pay rises for security of employment.

A similar three-year deal has been struck between the GMB and the Scottish company United Distillers. This matches job security with a commitment to flexibility and retraining, pegging pay increases just above inflation. Its success produced an extension to four years and has brought interest from other companies.

The right-wing assertion that job insecurity is simply a product of global market forces of which we are all prisoners hugely understates the capacity to resist the mania for hire-and-fire. Blue Circle operates in the construction market, where competition is at its rawest. United Distillers is also in a highly competitive market.

The Right's reliance on free-market dogma and deregulation has failed. It hasn't delivered the jobs, the skills, the infrastructure, the investment or the growth necessary to make Britain a high-quality economy. An alternative is overdue. Partnership between employers and unions is the only effective passport to a highly skilled economy. Government should support this social partnership, though not on the old bureaucratic, corporatist model.

Deals over beer and sandwiches by a government lurching from one crisis to another is a familiar caricature, but Labour doesn't want to turn the clock back: the solutions of the 1960s don't fit the 1990s. Centralised meddling is not the answer. But businesses do want the kind of support and partnership that foreign competitors receive from their governments and which is singularly absent from ours. The governments of the Far Eastern "tigers", for example, give substantially more skills, research and investment support to industry.

A new Labour government will promote best practice. It is not for governments to pre-empt or second-guess local bargaining. Terms must be agreed in the workplace. But we can encourage companies to look at agreements like those of Blue Circle and Distillers.

A Labour government will improve educational standards and revamp our tottering training system, to provide business with the skills so desperately needed. Gordon Brown's "University for Industry" initiative has been met by widespread interest. Reskilling and career change is the only way to survive in a flexible, fast-changing labour market.

Job security agreements must not, of course, be an excuse to ignore or shut out the millions of jobless people who simply do not recognise Tory claims that unemployment is falling. A shocking three million children now live in jobless households — and the figure has risen by 400,000 in the past four years. More than 90 per cent of new jobs are part-time, and there has been a disturbing collapse in jobs for middle-aged men. Youth and long-term unemployment remain worryingly high.

These problems must be addressed by new policies, such as Labour's commitment to move 250,000 youngsters off welfare and into work, funded by a levy on the profits of the privatised utilities. But greater job security will itself create more favourable circumstances for increased economic demand and therefore jobs.

Companies like Blue Circle obviously make decisions on commercial grounds, and agreements like theirs confound all the favourite nostrums of the new Right who dominate today's Tory party. Far from blocking change and flexibility, job security opens the door to both. Far from obstructing competitiveness, the principle of partnership at work underpins it. Far from being a hindrance, trade union participation can be a help. These truths are increasingly recognised by progressive, world-beating companies who respond to Labour's stakeholding ideas.

The author is a Labour Shadow Employment Minister.

Court out

WHILE Michael Atherton endures the humiliation in New Zealand of being caught out by a female cricketer, the man who could save the sorry England Test side is incarcerated at the Old Bailey. Mike Gatting, coach of the England A team, is unable to help because he is doing jury service.

Given Atherton and his shower of a team's performance in Zimbabwe and New Zealand, Gatting's arrival at the Old Bailey on Monday caused a commotion. He told admirers that he had managed previously to defer jury service three times because of his commitment to cricket, but that this time he was forced to appear and serve his country in another manner. Fellow jury members, aware that he was the last captain of England to win the Ashes (ten years ago), have been suggesting that the Old Bailey should have given him a fourth let-out. Citing his recent success in Australia with England A late last year, where the team lost only one of their ten matches, they argue that he is the one man with the grit needed to clear up the mess Atherton has made at the crease.

New blue

SCOTLAND'S Tories received a tremendous lift on Tuesday evening when Jacob Rees-Mogg, 27, son of Lord Rees-Mogg, former Editor of this newspaper and now PHS's colleague on this page, was selected to contend the Fife Central constituency, which at present has a strong Labour majority.

Rees-Mogg, who is coat-hanger thin and has a cracker-dry wit, currently works in the City.

Gatting: not batting

THE TIMES DIARY

So, any chance of seeing his pins in a kilt? "No. Fife is not a Highland seat. Anyway, I think it would be patently bogus if I turned up in a kilt and quoting Burns."

Hushed up

AT dinner the other night, a journalist found himself sitting next to one of Peter Mandelson's Labour campaign team. Halfway through, the journalist revealed his profession. "I am afraid I can no longer talk to you," said Mandelson's boy. "We have all had to sign an agreement not to talk to the press until after the election. It's a sackable offence I'm afraid."

● *Sick as a parrot, sums up Cardinal Basil Hume's reaction to the resignation of Kevin Keegan as manager of Newcastle United, where he is a season ticket holder. "He has served Newcastle with distinction," he says gloomily from Archbishop's House in Westminster. "To show gratitude for what he has achieved, fans should continue to support the club as always and the team must go on to win the Premiership and the Cup."*

Jawohl

TUESDAY night's debate on the monarchy brought to mind the evening a couple of years ago when the BBC hosted a smaller but similar exercise chaired by Jeremy Paxman. In the studio next door was a Bruce Forsyth game show, which had a particular following in Germany. Coachloads of Germans were lined up for a glimpse of their hero outside one studio; monarchists and republicans outside the other. But the BBC herded the groups into the wrong studios.

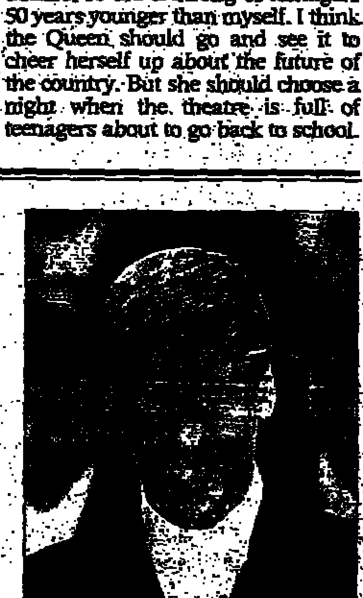
Paxman, who knew nothing of the mix-up, sounded out his audience with a current affairs question. "Hands up who can name the President of Germany," he said.

● *With the Prime Minister in India, BBC journalists have remembering an embarrassing incident from his last visit, in January 1993. He visited a slum development scheme in the city of Indor, and came across a statue of the prominent constitutional lawyer and champion of the lower castes, Dr B.R. Ambedkar. The BBC journalist John Sargeant mistook the statue as a post-colonial tribute to Major, and reported on television in his best Raj tones that although it didn't really look like the PM it was nevertheless a good effort by the locals.*

Cash up front

TROPHY-HUNTERS have emerged from the bikesheds after my story of how J & J Cash, nametape manufacturers, have been awarded a Royal Warrant by the Prince of Wales because of his children's boarding-school requirements.

In recent terms, boys have been sneaking into the changing rooms when Prince William is playing games to snip out his nametape for their collections. It reads, simply, "Prince William" followed by his laundry number and fetches a good few Hohenzollern or Goldsmith nametapes on the black market. The young prince is particularly at risk when playing away matches — rugger, waterpolo and the like.



William: playing tag

● *One thousand new names make it into the 1997* Who's Who, *including the comedians Ruby Wax and Paul Merton, actor Ralph Fiennes, Ken Hom, cook, and Willem Kok, the Prime Minister of The Netherlands. Also making his debut is the raunchy Sir Thomas Shakespeare, Research Fellow at Leeds University who lists "flirting" as his recreation.*

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

VIRTUAL DEMOCRACY

Politicians cannot ignore the public desire to participate

The content and conduct of Carlton Television's debate on the monarchy was not impressive. But the number of those who wanted to register their position — and the passionate anger of those who failed to do so — certainly was. This poll was not a unique or isolated incident. From the regular public support for referendums to the phone-in phenomenon throughout the broadcast media, there is manifest evidence of people's desire to make their voices heard where decisions are made.

Such desire reflects disenchantment with the limited, irregular, and predominantly passive role offered them under classic representative government. The model of democracy with which Britons are familiar emerged in its modern form approximately a century ago. It allowed for existing elites and for institutions such as the monarchy and Parliament to continue in a changed but largely consistent fashion, despite the evolution to universal suffrage.

The combination of powerful social trends with new technological means has placed the status quo under strain. Higher living standards, rising levels of education and a sharp decline in deference form one part of this process. Wider access to information and the power to process data at great speed form the other. With them may be coming a reluctance to delegate choice and control to mediating bodies, be they the organised church, traditional family, political parties, or professional parliamentarians.

Much of this is true for all advanced democracies. But that is no reason for complacency in Britain. Under our present arrangements, very few political actions beyond the ten-second task of casting ballots at a general election have much importance. Over the past two decades real authority has both been grasped from local councils by Parliament and given away by the same office-holders to a remote European Union. In neither case was there much public consultation, still less popular permission.

Compounding this, the inner workings of Whitehall still harbour an excessive propensity for secrecy. Parliament is suppressed as an independent spirit by the doctrine of mandate, a ludicrous fiction that a vote cast for a party represents the total endorsement of all proposals placed in an election manifesto. It is not surprising that citizens eager to have their say find inadequate opportunities to use their voice.

The drive to widen the franchise has been the story of democracy. From Ancient Greece to the Great Reform Act through votes for women it has invariably been viewed with horror by those obliged to share formerly oligarchical power. Sometimes the oligarchs have been well justified in their fears. But the pressure for popular voices to be heard is not easily wished away. Some countries, such as France, allow street riots to be the system's safety valve. In others, such as the US, it is increasingly talk-radio and the push-button poll.

There are many proper concerns about the current trend that go beyond oligarchic self-interest. The first is that democracy must be more than the identification of, and obedience too, the majorities on any particular subject. The second is that the decline of an automatic deference should not slide into resistance to any form of respect. The third is that entitlement to a layman's opinion does not mean that other views, based upon the experience and expertise of a few, should be caavalierly rejected. Finally, and critically, the entry fee for a more direct form of democracy is a willingness to undertake the homework. The legitimate criticism of the Carlton extravaganza is that its format bypassed all four of these concerns.

Politicians would be poorly advised, however, to permit the flaws of a particular programme to obscure the wider picture. One hundred years ago Britain managed the transition to modern democracy with astonishing success. Its system comfortably withstood the forces of extremism that swept across most of Europe in the inter-war period. Today the Government is trying to make a virtue of its reluctance to consider constitutional innovation. If the worst excesses of push-button plebiscites are to be avoided then reform is precisely what will be needed. The monarchy is not the only institution that needs to adapt to the times.

SERVICE CHANGES

When below stairs is a basement flat and car

Until the Second World War, it was a common practice for young men and women from poor homes to go into domestic service. The work was hard but there were promotion prospects and the surroundings were often congenial. Yet the system depended upon a sharp class divide that, in more egalitarian postwar years, was harder to stomach. Domestic service soon became a term demeaning to the employees and guilt-inducing to employers. Now, we are told, it is coming back; but in a different way.

According to a paper at the Geographers' Conference yesterday, paid domestic labour is a big growth industry. But the modern domestic help — the word "servant" will surely never return to general use — is in most cases a different phenomenon altogether. In the past, upper-class employers paid working-class people to do jobs that they could do themselves but chose not to. So a nanny might be employed to look after the children while the mother was in the house, bringing them down, freshly scrubbed, for a token half-hour before bedtime. Butlers and cooks would take care of the tasks that most people, even in the upper classes, now do for themselves.

There are still rich people who hire domestic help out of desire for leisure or prestige. Many of them are foreigners: yesterday's survey was done in Hampstead, which has a large and wealthy expatriate community. But the main boost to the booming domestic service industry is the two-earner household. Working mothers do not hire nannies as a badge of privilege; childcare is a necessity. Gone are the days when the nanny worked six-and-a-half long days out of seven. In most of today's nanny-employing households, the nanny works chiefly in the parents' absence.

This arrangement suits both parties. Nannying has become a career for many young women, with professional qualifications and salaries rising in line with experience. The job is reasonably well paid, with free food, accommodation and, sometimes, car — usually in a comfortable house. Employees often come from the same background as the employers. Pride is salved all round. For young foreigners or Britons who want to live away from home, jobs such as nannying provide the chance of living in greater comfort than they could otherwise afford. Domestic service is therefore a boon to labour mobility and an excellent way of reducing unemployment.

As the manufacturing sector declines, the service industry is the best hope for job creation. And the attraction of domestic service is that it is informal, flexible and no longer demeaning. Doing someone's "dirty work" because they are too grand to do it themselves is one thing; doing it because they have no time to do it is another. Jobs such as cleaning are also flexible enough to be fitted in around other commitments.

The latest Family Expenditure Survey showed that £3.89 billion is spent on help in the home. The true figure may well be higher, since much goes untaxed. But the guilt and envy that used to attach to domestic service should be swept away. Helping other people to order their lives is as valuable an occupation as any.

POLAND'S BECKET

Father Popieluszko is set to face the Devil's Advocate

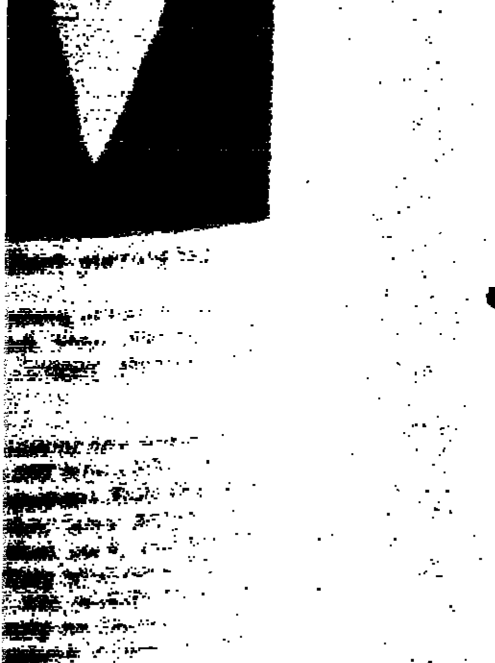
No murder so shocked a nation or had such devastating political impact in Eastern Europe as the beating, strangulation and drowning of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the champion of Solidarity who kept up the spirit of resistance during Poland's dark days of martial law. The turbulent young priest was an inspirational figure, who gave his heart and eventually also his life to Polish freedom. Holding packed Masses that rallied support for the banned trade union, he was Poland's liberation hero. In 1984 the regime's security thugs decided to rid the country of him. Like the murder in an English cathedral 800 years earlier, the crime brought low not only its perpetrators, but the cause in whose name they acted. Popieluszko immediately became a popular saint; now, like Becket, his memory may be officially sanctified.

The Pope is to make his sixth visit to his native land this summer. Frail, yet still passionate about the country of his birth, he is sure to mention the case of Father Popieluszko during his pilgrimage. For there is every indication that this Polish pope is determined to do one final service for his country: to set in train the canonisation of its most celebrated modern-day martyr.

The part played by the Roman Catholic Church under Communism is only now emerging from scholarly papers and memoirs. It is already clear, however, that the murder of the young priest was the single act that brought into the open the failings and contradictions of a system that could only maintain itself in power by force. Until then, those who foresaw no end to Communist power — including Archbishop Glemp, the Primate of Poland — believed that martial law was the lesser of two evils, the only way that Poland could ward off Soviet intervention. But Father Popieluszko was uncompromising.

His murder shamed the Communist authorities into arresting and indicting his killers. It was their trial which administered the *coup de grâce* to the system: for the first time, a Communist government exposed the brutishness on which it relied to remain in power. The system crumbled in Poland, emboldening all anti-communist forces.

Like all saints, however, Father Popieluszko was a complex character. His stance raised the old moral dilemmas of obedience and revolt, compromise and stubbornness, pragmatism and political engagement. Did he not, like Eliot's Becket, succumb to the final temptation — courting martyrdom for his own vanity, and doing "the right deed for the wrong reason"? Those are the questions that will be put by the Devil's Advocate during any candidacy for sainthood. Poles have no doubt of the answer.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Sovereignty as a national asset

From Mr John Redwood, MP for Wokingham (Conservative)

Sir, David Selbourne, writing from Italy (letter, January 4), asks what is the difference between selling public assets to the public and giving away the powers of self-government to unelected European institutions? I would have thought a moment's reflection would have shown the big differences.

If an asset like a building is no longer needed for public administration it makes sense to sell it to a private interest which can use it. Doing so will enable it to be maintained and cared for, rather than languishing empty at the public expense.

Taking the State out of the business of making cars or running a transport undertaking was sensible: it increased employment and opportunity for British employees. Parliament continues to hold the power to tax or legislate as it wishes to influence or direct those and other businesses. It is returning the family silver to the family, to use it better than the State used it.

In contrast, giving away the rights of the British people and their Parliament to make laws as they see fit is like sending the family silver away to Brussels, for it to be used only when and as they see fit. Indeed, the single currency scheme entails sending the country's gold to Frankfurt and the surrender of our right to use it as we wish.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REDWOOD,
The Conservative 2000 Foundation,
2 Wilfred Street, SW1.
January 6.

From Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, MP for Wimbledon (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Selbourne may need reminding that the taxpayer has every reason to welcome the replacement of the £50 million per week subsidy to nationalised industries with £55 million per week now paid to the Treasury in taxes. He might also question whether it is necessary for management to be "elected" to run successful businesses ranging from railways to telecommunications.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES GOODSON-WICKES,
House of Commons.
Janury 6.

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, The main difference between selling off our public and civic institutions and handing over our national sovereignty to Europe is surely that we have been given several opportunities to express our opinion on the former in general elections but none whatever on the latter.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST,
Delfryn, Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.
January 4.

From Mr F. G. de L. Rutherford

Sir, I fear that Mr David Selbourne may have gone native during his residence in Italy. The notion that public and civic institutions succeed in cementing together a nation's fabric is a continental illusion and betrays a blind acceptance of the role of the State in the lives of its citizens.

In Britain we rarely make reference to the State, except to accuse it of being a nanny or "faceless". Not so across the Channel. There the authority of the State is indivisible. De Gaulle said so, and the attitude persists.

Yours faithfully,
F. G. de L. RUTHERFORD,
25 Vanston Place, SW6.
January 6.

'Times' and the Nazis

From Mr Simon Hutchinson

Sir, The well known passage quoted by Mr Robert Silver (letter, December 31) from Geoffrey Dawson's letter to H. G. Daniels of May 23, 1937 — not May 27 as stated by Mr Silver — is less damning than it appears to be when divorced from its background.

The essential background to that letter, and an earlier one of May 11, is that Hitler had intimated to Daniels, through intermediaries, that he would like to be interviewed by him; that Dawson had heard from Lord Lothian of his recent encouraging meeting with Hitler, who had emphasised his desire for friendship with England and deplored the criticisms of the British press; and that the British Government was optimistically preparing for a visit from the German Foreign Minister.

Dawson was of course aware of the extreme sensitivity of the dictators to the slightest criticism. It was emphatically not a time for "unfair comment". On the other hand *The Times* had published a full account of the bombing of Guernica by German airmen in the previous month which caused furious denials and angry criticism in the German press.

News is not comment and one searches in vain for any evidence that Dawson suppressed news.

Yours sincerely,
S. HUTCHINSON,
14d Calverley Park Gardens,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
January 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Hedgerow rules are an 'untidy mess'

From Professor J. V. Beckett and Professor Michael Turner

Sir, The judgment in the Hull County Court relating to the Flamborough enclosure hedge (report, January 3) raises critical questions to which your leader of the same day pays too little respect.

Between 1740 and 1914 some 5,000 private enclosure Acts were passed, covering 6.8 million acres (21 per cent of the land area of England) — the great majority between 1760 and 1830. Thus the extent and timing of this aspect of the English landscape can be established with some accuracy; the enclosed landscape is not, as your leader suggests, a "timeless aspect of England's glory".

Enclosure Acts established boundaries, usually marked by fences, which might be dry stone walling in the Pennines or hawthorn hedges elsewhere. It was these subdivision fences which had to be maintained, not necessarily all of the hedges which were erected as fences.

Hedgerows erected by individual landowners in order to divide their own land (into fields, for example) were not protected by the legislation; so a clear distinction is needed between a legal boundary fence (which might be a hedgerow) and a hedgerow planted as a field boundary but not a legal boundary defining ownership.

Although enclosure Acts usually expected fences to be maintained forever, where they have subsequently been removed — for housing development, for example — they clearly cannot be maintained.

Obviously it is time for the Government to step in and tidy up what is at present a most untidy mess. But the idea that the Flamborough judgment can be used retrospectively to replant the English countryside with hedges that have been lost would appear to be fanciful.

Yours sincerely,
J. V. BECKETT
(University of Nottingham),
MICHAEL TURNER
(University of Hull),
c/o Department of History,
University of Nottingham,
University Park, Nottingham.
January 3.

From the Reverend Ernest N. Goodridge

Sir, I confess to being mystified by Colin Seymour's concern to save a hedge in Flamborough that plainly can keep no one out and nothing in. I suggest that a better response to the plight of our hedgerows would be to promote a revival of the ancient art of "plashing" or hedge-laying.

By this technique, upright growth is encouraged and then laid horizontally to fill the gaps, while new growth is encouraged at the "hinge" point close to the ground. Hedges can then be preserved over many generations, both as objects of beauty and usefulness.

If skilled hedgers are no longer around to give instruction, let small teams rediscover the art for themselves — they can't make a worse job of it than hedge-bashing machines operated from tractors.

Yours sincerely,
ERNEST GOODRIDGE,
13 Orchard Gardens, Fenstanton,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.
January 3.

From Mr Richard Wakeford

Sir, I was delighted by the judgment vindicating Colin Seymour's defence of a (very) humble hedgerow and by your enthusiastic support for him.

However, even if fewer hedges are removed in the future as a result of this enforcement, I fear our hedgerows are still under threat of gradual destruction, not by intent, but by present methods of mechanical trimming.

Although horizontal tops and vertical sides look neat and tidy, lower shoots in the bottom of a hedge are denied light and moisture and there is little or no regeneration as a result.

I wonder why farmers do not trim their hedges to a simple "A" shape, involving only two passes with a trimmer instead of three, thus allowing and encouraging new growth from the bottom up.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. WAKEFORD,
4 Acland Court,
Church Street, Braunton, Devon.
January 5.

Snowboards and skis

From Mr John C. Clothier

Sir, I have been lucky enough to spend four weeks in the last year on the slopes in Val d'Isère and Tignes. Mown down three times by out-of-control skiers at the ripe old age of 50, my vote goes to the snowboarders, who left me to my own devices completely unscathed.

Furthermore the sheer beauty of a skilled snowboarder in action has left me in no doubt as to who deserves to inherit the slopes once they have been abandoned by skiers such as your correspondent Mr Peter Parr-Davies (letter, January 4).

The problem with crowded pistes is that they are full of people travelling in varied trajectories at vastly varying speeds, whatever happens to be strapped to their feet. Both skiers and boarders have the right to learn and enjoy the slopes under the same code of conduct.

It looks as if, on the basis of current trends, snowboarders will be more numerous than skiers within ten years. In other words the young have decided that boarding is more exciting than skiing. This does not make them, by definition, hooligans, however. Hooligans will be hooligans, surely, whatever their chosen mode of transport.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. CLOTHIER,
Little Court, West Bagborough,
Taunton, Somerset.
January 5.

From Mr Mark Dougherty

Sir, The difference in turning trajectory between skis and snowboards is wildly exaggerated and is certainly something which can be coped with, given a little common sense.

Snowboards are apparently deemed more dangerous mainly because of the demography of their riders, who tend to be young and reckless. Mr Parr-Davies would therefore do better to advise banning teenagers from ski resorts. Come to think of it, that would save us all from the horrific noise of parties going on all night.

I begin to think there could be something in the idea.

Yours faithfully,
MARK DOUGHERTY
(Senior research fellow),
Dalarna University,
Centre for Research on
Transportation and Society,
S-78188, Borlange, Sweden.
January 4.

Christian schooling

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, I am surprised that Father Leo Chamberlain, Headmaster of Ampleforth College, should show such apparent contempt for what he calls "moral relativism" (letter, January 2).

Not many centuries ago, Church leaders, including the Roman Catholics, thought it a moral duty to burn supposed witches and to hound alleged heretics to a miserable death. Assuming (as I charitably do) that these same churches now regard such actions as totally immoral, they are surely guilty of extreme moral relativism? Nor do the religious allegiances of the prison population support in any way the supposition that religion leads to morality.

What we need are firm ethical principles to which all can subscribe, without bringing in the logical contradictions between different faiths that divide people from each other, divisions that are reinforced by denominational schooling. Emphasis on shared secular values, as are provided by humanism, is needed. Only a morality not based on contentious religious belief can serve our age.

Yours sincerely,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College,
Cambridge.
January 2.

Hands across the sea

From Mr William Bown

Sir, Octogenarians romantically inclined such as me, in common with other devotees of Robert Louis Stevenson, will have been reminded by Captain John Quayle's delightful letter (January 4) about his second officer's use of the ship's Aldis lamp, of the expression of filial duty by the otherwise villainous Captain Hoseason of *Kidnapped*.

His brig *Covenant* was never allowed to pass Dysart, on the east coast of Scotland, without a gun being fired in salute to his mother who lived there.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM BOWN,
Holly Lodge,
4 Long Street,
Cerne Abbas, Dorchester, Dorset.
January 4.

From Mr Alastair Aked

Sir, Captain Quayle's letter reminded me of similarly resourceful officers in the Royal Air Force.

In the 1960s I flew as captain of a Blackburn Beverley, one of the largest aircraft ever to serve in the RAF and the nearest to an airborne merchant ship.

We too carried Aldis lamps and some of our navigators would signal to their waiting wives as they approached the runway on return from overseas. Acknowledgement would be by torch or a waved tea towel.

On one occasion, on our approach to RAF Eastleigh in Kenya, my young navigator received an unwelcome acknowledgement to his signal. His rival for the affections of his girlfriend was seen to run out of her house, jump into his car and drive off at speed.

The Aldis lamp was replaced by binoculars on all future flights.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR AKED,
16 Mayfair,
74 West Cliff Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset.
January 5.

Business letters, page 27

Lower income tax and charity funds

From Mr Peter E. Robin

Sir, Since the beginning of the Conservative Government in 1979 there has been the declared intent and implementation of the policy to reduce the basic rate of income tax. Indeed, the Labour Party has indicated an intention to reduce the rate. The policies reflect the trend towards the probably inevitable switch to the taxation of goods, property, services and consumption.

The effect of this has been to erode significantly the income of many charities. For years much charitable funding has depended on matching some direct donations with support from the Exchequer by refunding the basic rate of income tax on those donations given under deed of covenant and by Gift Aid.

The reclaiming of tax from the original 33 per cent rate in 1979 has been reduced to that refunded at the current rate of 24 per cent (soon to be 23 per cent) and, if the intention to reduce the basic rate to 20 per cent or 15 per cent (as both parties have indicated) is implemented, the loss to charities will be approaching 50 per cent over the 1979 figure. This serious undermining of the ability of all charities to raise money has widespread, probably unintended, effects.

A simple remedy would be to allow the reclaim of higher rates of income tax from charitable covenants. Failure to provide some solution will continue to reduce the capacity of many charities to function, and reduce the otherwise powerful encouragement to charitable donation which still exists.

Yours sincerely,
P. E. ROBIN,
37 Knightlow Road,
Birmingham, West Midlands.
January 3.

Royal Parks cuts

From the Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Parks Forum

Sir, Dame Jennifer Jenkins (letter, December 28; see also letter, January 6) deplores the repeated budgetary cuts which London's Royal Parks have suffered. She calls for the appointment of an independent champion to proclaim the Royal Parks' case in the competition for National Heritage funds.

Cuts in the overall budget are not the only threat. The Department of National Heritage pursues a further policy of paring down running costs, forcing the Royal Parks Agency to reduce its management strength from 91 to 77 after the latest round of cuts.

Capable professionals, particularly park managers, with imagination and experience are having to take early retirement. Yet the quality of the Royal Parks depends crucially on the calibre of its managers: to run down the complement must be to run down the quality.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD de Ste CROIX,
Chairman,
Friends of the Royal Parks Forum,
9 Wellington Place, NW8.
January 6.

Ribbons or bows?

From Dr Andrew Bamji

Sir, Dr Helen Walters, GP (letter, January 3), would, I am sure, look both distinctive and artistic wearing a bow tie. Whether she might appear mad is a different matter.

The one stipulation must be that the bow tie has to be tied. In the main, made-up ones are distinctive and lazy, which would convey entirely the wrong impression.

As both a doctor and owner of 32 bows I speak with confidence on this matter.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW BAMJI,
Greylands,
58 Goddington Lane,
Orpington, Kent.
January 3.

Royal debate

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, So the Prime Minister's Question Time session in the Commons twice a week is far too noisy, quarrelsome and confrontational, according to critics, though it usually deals with the most controversial political subjects of the day?

Should therefore MPs not now follow the quiet, dignified and thoughtful responses of the audience, when confronted with views differing from their own, in last night's television debate on the monarchy (reports, January 8)?

Yours etc,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons.
January 8.

From Mr Nicholas Paget-Brown

Sir, Having watched last night's debate, I have become worried about an unaccountable, spendthrift and remote body that I have had no opportunity to elect and which is both useless and tasteless. Where can I vote to abolish Carlton Television?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS PAGET-BROWN,
Flat 4,
35 Hollywood Road, SW10.
January 8.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 8: The Prince Edward today named the Squad Round Britain RIB "Blue Dart" and later, as Patron of the Ocean Youth Club, attended a presentation and Luncheon for the launch of the Mainstay Business Association at the London International Boat Show, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London SW5.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 8: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this afternoon visited the London International Boat Show, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London SW5.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Victims Support Schemes, this evening attended a fund-raising Dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 8: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the *Secretary of the* Duchy of Cornwall (Mr John James).

Today's royal engagement

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, will visit the fund's shops at 2 William Street, Windsor, at 10.00; 9 West Street, Reading, at 11.10 and 11-13 Market Street, Newbury, at 12.20.

Lord Roskill

The Memorial Service for Eustace Roskill will be held in Winchester Cathedral on Saturday, January 25, 1997, at 2.30pm. For parking details, call 0171-359 0628.

Major John Surtees

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Major John Surtees at 3pm on Wednesday, January 22, at St Michael's, Cornhill, EC3.

University news

Cambridge
Darwin College
Elected into Munby Visiting Fellowships in Bibliography for the academical year 1997-98:
Mrs Susanna Avery-Quash; Dr Kathryn Alexandra Lowe.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Jervis, Earl of St Vincent, Admiral of the Fleet, Stone, Staffordshire, 1735; Charles Kortright, cricketer, Brentwood, Essex, 1871; Dame Gracie Fields, singer, Rochdale, Lancashire, 1898; Simone de Beauvoir, novelist and critic, Paris, 1908; Rose Louise Hovick (Gypsy Rose Lee), actress, 1914.

DEATHS: Caroline Herschel, astronomer, Hanover, 1848; Napoleon III, French Emperor 1852-70, Chislehurst, Kent, 1873; Katherine Mansfield, writer, Fontainbleau, France, 1923; Pier Luigi Nervi, engineer and architect, Rome, 1979; Sir Charles Curran, Director-General of the BBC 1969-1977, 1980.

Income tax was introduced by William Pitt the Younger, 1799.

Sir Humphry Davy's safety lamp was first used in a coal mine, 1816.

Anthony Eden resigned as Prime Minister, 1957.

The liner *Queen Elizabeth* was destroyed by fire in Hong Kong harbour, 1972.

Lord Hutton

Sir James Brian Edward Hutton, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, has been appointed a *Lord* of Appeal in Ordinary and has been granted a life barony, by the style of Baron Hutton, of Bresagh in the County of Down.

Luncheons

Wax Chandlers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff Clive Martin and the Sword Bearer, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Wax Chandlers' Company yesterday at Wax Chandlers' Hall. During the luncheon the Master, Mr David La Niece, presented a cheque to the Lord Mayor in support of his charity appeal for the Cancer Research Campaign.

The Lord Mayor presented the company's prize to Mr Richard Lindsey for the best paper submitted to the British Bee Keepers' Association in the 1996 senior examination.

Manchester Consular Association
Councillor Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, was the principal guest at the annual meeting and luncheon of the Manchester Consular Association held yesterday at Manchester Town Hall. Consul Robert Burnett-Hughes (Ivory Coast and Tunisia) was installed as President by Consul General Ernst Keller (Switzerland) the outgoing president.

School announcements

Brentwood School (HMC)
The *Lent* Term begins today. Entrance Examinations for the Main and Preparatory Schools take place on February 1. Half term is from February 8 to February 16. The Junior School production of *The Magical Voyage of Ulysses* will be performed from March 12 to 15. A Chamber concert takes place on February 6. The Old Brentwoods Society Dinner will be *held* on March 21 in School. Term ends March 21.

Bromsgrove School
Bromsgrove School convenes today for the Lent Term. The Choral Society will *perform* a programme of Holst, Rutter and Vaughan *Williams on the evening of* March 20. Term ends on Friday, March 21.

Dean Close School, Cheltenham
The Lent Term begins today. James Mears is Captain of Hockey and Rachel Rank Captain of Netball. The Junior Drama Group Play *Frogs* by Aristophanes will be on March 21 and 22, and Open Day on February 8. The Music Scholarship Auditions will be held on February 6 and the Academic Scholarships from February 24 to 26. The Old Decanian Games' Day will be on March 21. The Bishop of Gloucester will conduct Confirmation on March 9 and term ends on March 26. In the Michaelmas term, the fifth Douglas Graham Lecture was given by Professor Noel Witts, OD, (De Montfort University), entitled "The Arts in Eastern Europe".

Headington School, Oxford
The Spring Term begins today. The Friends of Headington School hold their Annual General Meeting and Dinner on January 31 when the Speaker will be Gary Herbert, Olympic Gold Medallist. Our Annual Careers Evening is on February 11 and entry examinations to the Sixth Form take place on February 13. The Confirmation Service will be held in the School Hall on March 16 when the Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, will officiate. Term ends on Tuesday, March 25.

Queen Margaret's School, York
Spring Term began on Tuesday, January 7 and ends on March 21. The Sixth Form Scholarship and Music Scholarship are scheduled for February 19. The Music Scholars' Concert will take place on February 2 and the School Concert on February 23. The Choir will sing Evensong in York Minster on February 26 and sing a joint Evensong with its sister school, Queen Margaret's Duncan, British Columbia, on March 19. The Public Lecture, 'The Crime and Morals Debate' will be given by the Rev Canon Dr Edward Norman on February 19. The Right Rev Clifford Barker will officiate at the service of Confirmation on March 9.

Saint Felix School, Southwold
Term begins today. The first Centenary event is Saint Felix Day (March 8). All Old Felicians are welcome. Chapel Service 10am (please arrive by 9.30am) will be followed by full programme of activities. A day geared to past and present pupils: experience the school as it was, and as it is today. Overnight accommodation available. Contact Jayne on 01502-722175 for further details. Full programme of Centenary events mailed to all OFs whose address is known. If not received by end January, contact the school.

St Francis' College, Letchworth
The Spring Term at St Francis' College began on Monday, January 6, and ends on Wednesday, March 26. Nicola Grimmer is Head Girl and her deputies are Philippa Ravn and Laura Witherick. The Entrance Examinations will be held on Friday, January 31. A joint Preparatory Department and Senior School Spring Concert will be held on Friday, March 14.

St George's School, Ascot
Boarders returned to St George's School, Ascot yesterday and School opens today for the Spring Term. The Chapel Choir will give a Tenth Anniversary Concert at Eton College Chapel on Saturday, February 2 and a Spring Concert in Sunningdale Parish Church on Friday, March 14. Term ends on *Friday, March 21.*

Today's birthdays

Susannah York, the actress, is 55 today

Major D.S. Allhusen, equestrian Olympic medallist, 83; Mr Justice Alliott, 65; Lady Anson, former *deputy chairman,* Association of District Councils, 66; Miss Joan Baez, folk singer, 56; Mr Hugh Bayley, MP, 45; Mrs M.L.S. Bennett, *former Principal,* St Hilda's College, Oxford, 84; Mr Harvey Betram-Brown, *fashion designer,* 31; Sir Rudolf Bing, former general *manager, Metropolitan Opera,* New York, 95; Mr Ken Brown, *golfer, 40; Sir John Buckley,* former chairman, Davy Corporation, 84; *the Earl of Carrick,* 44; Mrs Christine Crawley, MEP, 47; Mr *Clive Dunn, actor, 75; Sir Anthony* Durant, MP, 69; Sir Graham Eyre, QC, 66; *Mr Michael Gifford,* former chief executive and manag*ing director, Rank Organisation,* 61; Father Benedict Green, theolo*gian,* 73; *Mr Terry Hands, theatre* and opera director, 56; Mr David *Holbrook, author,* 74; *Mr L.J.* Holliday, former chairman, John *Laing Construction,* 76; Mr Raymond Horrocks, former chair*man, Austin Rover Group Holdings,* 67; Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, FRS, geneticist, 47; Sir Michael Jenkins, *vice-chairman,* Kleinwort Benson Group, 61; Mr *Simon Swynfen Jervis, President* of the Society of Antiquaries of *London,* 54; *Mr Justice Ognall,* 63; Miss Joely Richardson, actress, 32; *Viscount Ullswater,* 55; *Mr Geof*frey Wragg, racehorse trainer, 67.

Scottish Episcopal Church

Resignations
Diocese of Edinburgh
Edward Neve Coombs has resigned as Curate at St Thomas', Edinburgh, from December 31. He is to be Curate at Dagenham Parish Church, Chelmsford.

Sheila Stuart Cox has resigned as Missioner, St Andrew and St Aidan, Craigmillar, from December 31. She is returning to Livingston.

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway
Peter Brereton Francis has resigned as Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, from December 31. He is to be Warden and Chief Librarian, St Deniol's Library, Hawarden, Clwyd.

Latest wills

Lady **Holt**, of Sutton Scotney, Winchester, Hampshire, formerly of Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, left estate valued at £7,965,686 net.
She left £20,000 to St Ann's Hospice, Cheadle; £10,000 each to *Royal* United Kingdom Beneficent Association, Dr Barnardo's, and RNLI.

The **Viscount Hanworth**, of Shamley Green, Guildford, Surrey, left estate valued at £8,438 net.

Dame Catherine **Hall**, former General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, of Buckfastleigh, Devon, left estate valued at £528,422 net.

Sir Jeremy **Rowe**, former deputy *chairman,* Abbey National, of Peasmarsh Rye, East Sussex, left *estate valued at £685,600 net.*

Henry Isadore **Fineman**, of Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £11,463,524 net. He left his estate mostly to his family.

Alan Grove, of Wigan, Lancashire, left £1,191,488 net.

John Harry Neild **Collis**, of Stableford, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, left £1,004,916 net.

Lewis Arthur Richard **Gardiner**, of Stamford, Lincolnshire, left £1,418,947 net.

Alice *Maria Joan* **Deniset**, *of* South Fleet, Hampshire, left *£645,856 net.*

Theodore Frederick Newman **Gallyon**, *of Cambridge,* left £517,146 net.

Brian Stuart Lionel **Zeff**, of London NW3, left £636,767 net.

Doris Mary **Shepherd**, of Guildford, Surrey, left £560,294 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.P. Allfrey
and Miss M.V. Swire
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr Peter Allfrey and Mrs Susanna Allfrey, and Martha, daughter of Sir Adrian and Lady Judith Swire.

Mr C.R.A. Anderson
and Miss S.J.V. Coghill
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr Charles Anderson and the late Mrs Anderson, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Sophie, elder *daughter of Mr Roger* Coghill and Mrs Pamela Coghill, *of Stoke Newington, London.*

Mr J.M. Anderson
and Miss *M.S. Davis*
The engagement is announced between Jason, son of *Mr* and Mrs Michael Anderson, of San Diego, California, and *Mhairi,* youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Davis, of Hertford Heath, Hertfordshire.

Mr A.M. Blaxland
and Miss M.S. Stanley
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Blaxland, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Stanley, of Winchester.

Captain T.C.F. Coles
and Miss A.J. Ord
The engagement is announced between Tim, eldest son of Mr Jeremy Coles, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, and Mrs Janet Coles, of Worcester, and Alison, elder daughter of *Mr* and *Mrs* Anthony Ord, of Malpas, Cheshire.

Mr S.G. Donnellan
and Miss D.L. Robertson
The engagement is announced between Séan, son of Major *Brendan Donnellan,* of Feltham, Middlesex, and Mrs Susan Morris, of Easingwold, North Yorkshire, and Debora, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bryan Robertson, of Bishop Auckland, County Durham.

Mr J.A. Gardiner
and *Miss A. Issayeva*
The engagement is announced between Jamie, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Gardiner, of Kirkbymoorside, Yorkshire, and Aygun, daughter of Professor and Mrs *Hamlet* Issakhanly, of *Baku,* Azerbaijan.

Captain S.D. Guest
and Miss S. Wyldbore-Smith
The engagement is announced between Captain Stuart Guest, The Parachute Regiment, younger son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Guest, of Bagshot, Surrey, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Wyldbore-Smith, of Berkswell, Warwickshire.

Mr A.D. Fitzpatrick
and Miss L.M. Anderson
The engagement is announced between *Damien,* son of Mr G.F. Fitzpatrick and Mrs M.A. Stewart, of Liverpool, *and Louise,* daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Anderson, of Hayes, Kent.

Mr T.J.R. Harding
and Miss P.F.M. Whistler
The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs John Harding, of London, and Penelope, eldest *daughter* of Major and Mrs R.J.F. Whistler, of Camberley, Surrey.

Mr M.F.W. Hedgecoe
and Miss E.J. Phipps
The engagement *is announced* between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Hedgecoe, of Chobham, Surrey, and Emily, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Phipps, of Beaulieu, Hampshire.

Mr R.A.H. Jones
and Miss J.B. Evans
The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Dr Richard Jones, of Builth Wells, Powys, and Mrs Betty Jones, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Jane, daughter of Mr David Evans and Mrs Desmond Smith, of Nether Wallop, Hampshire.

Mr M.L. Keller
and Miss R.C. Walker
The engagement is announced between Myles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs *Lawrence* Keller, of Toronto, Canada, and Rachel, daughter of Mr William Walker, of Thurstaston, Wirral, and Mrs Marilyn *Walker,* of Tattenhall, Cheshire.

Mr A.I. Mackenzie
and Miss E.M.M. Huigen
The engagement is announced between Angus Ian, elder son of *Mr* and *Mrs Ian Mackenzie,* of West Yorkshire, and Elisabeth Monica *Maria,* daughter of Mr and Mrs F.A.M. Huigen, of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Mr G.A. Masson
and *Miss S.L. Catto*
The engagement is announced between Gareth Antony, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Masson, of Cults, Aberdeen, and Sarah Louise, only daughter of Professor and Mrs Graeme R.D. Catto, of Aberdeen.

Mr R.J.B. Nelson
and Miss T.E. Codd
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of the late Mr James Nelson and of Mrs Gillian Nelson, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Toni Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and *Mrs Philip Codd, of Wood* End, Warwickshire.

Mr A.C. Olney
and Miss C.L. Callaghan
The engagement is *announced* between Andrew Charles Olney, of Itchen Abbas, *Hampshire,* younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Michael Olney, and *Catherine* Louise, younger daughter of the late Mr James Callaghan and of Mrs Catherine Callaghan, of Glasgow.

Mr J.H. Vardon
and Miss E.J. Smith
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr and Mrs John Vardon, of Tunstall, Staffordshire, and Erica, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Smith, of Wood Lane, Staffordshire.

Mr E.W.C. Walker
and Miss S.H. Bates
The engagement is announced between *Edward,* younger son of the late Mr Richard Walker and of *Mrs Julia Walker,* of Thames Ditton, Surrey, and Susan, daughter of *Mr and Mrs* Frank Bates, of Ullenhall, Warwickshire.

Mr K.J. Wilson
and Miss A.K. Seymour
The engagement is *announced* between Keith, elder son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Wilson, of *Kilmacolm,* Renfrewshire, and Antonia, elder daughter of *Mr and Mrs* Paul Seymour, of Malvern, Worcestershire.

Marriages

Captain A.J. Barrett, RAMC,
and Miss C.M. Isaksson
The *marriage* took place on January 4, at Oldway Mansion, Paignton, of Captain Alastair James Barrett, second son of Mr and Mrs Ron Barrett, of Torquay, and Clary Marianne Isaksson, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Leif Isaksson, of Gällivare, Sweden.

Mr S.C. de Chair
and Miss L.J.A. Benjamin
The marriage took place on January 8, *1997 at Nelson's* Dockyard, Antigua, between Mr Somerset *Carlo de Chair and Miss* Laura Jane Abigail Benjamin.

Mr S. Kearsley
and Miss A.H.J. Steadman
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 21, at Shamwari, Eastern Cape, of *Mr Stewart* Kearsley, youngest son of Mr and Mrs David Kearsley, of Fishguard, and Miss Amanda (Millie) Steadman, daughter of *Mr* Christopher St Jermain Steadman, of northern *Johannesburg,* and of Mrs Brian Mitchell, of Thames Ditton, *Surrey,* and stepdaughter of Mr Brian Mitchell.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Graham Steel, Priest-in-charge, Prittlewell, St Peter, and Westcliff, St Cedd and the Saints of Essex: to be Vicar, the united benefice of Prittlewell, St Peter and Westcliff, St Cedd and the Saints of Essex (Chelmsford).

The Rev Susan Staff, Senior Curate, St William, Walderslade and St David, Lordswood (Rochester): to be Team Vicar, Walton Team Ministry (LEP) (Oxford).

The Rev Judith Wilson, formerly Sub-Chaplain of HM Prison, Wandsworth (Southwark): to be Chaplain to HM Colony, Hollesley Bay (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

Resignations and retirements
The Ven Canon Derek Hodgson, Archdeacon of Durham and Residentiary Canon of Durham Cathedral (Durham): to retire April 30, 1997, and then be appointed Archdeacon Emeritus and Canon Emeritus of Durham Cathedral.

The Rev Michael Ackroyd, Vicar, St Mary and All Saints, Whalley *(Blackburn): to retire* July 31, 1997.

Canon Dennis Bourne, Rector, *Hingham w Scoulton w Wood* Rising and an Honorary Canon of Norwich *Cathedral (Norwich):* to retire January 6, 1997.

The Rev Andrew Brian, Vicar, Shenstone (Lichfield): retired December 3.

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There is only one lawgiver and judge: he who is able to save life or destroy it. So who are you to *judge* your neighbour? James 4 : 12

BIRTHS

BAYNHAM - On 2nd January, to *Simon* and *Susie*, a son, Rory, a brother for Rupert and Olivia.

BEIDOGLU - On January 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Sara and Veli, a son, Taner, a brother for Hakan, a grandson for Yuksel.

BOURDILLON - On January 2nd, to *Miranda (née* Farmer) and Patrick, a daughter.

FULFORD - On 3rd January 1997 at Winchester, to Kate and James, a son, Henry Gerard.

GIBB - On *22nd* December 1996 at North Salem, New York, to Kate (née Tonner) and Peter, a son, Jack Tonner, a brother for Maisie, Ben and Ellie.

LAZARUS - On 8th January 1997 at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, to Ursula (née O'Neill) and Simon, a gorgeous first-born son, Hugh Alfred. Heartfelt thanks to the hospital staff.

RUFFELL - On 4th January 1997, to Julia and Miles, a son, Frederick William Ambrose, a brother for Isabella, Harry and Francesca.

TURNER - On January 3rd, to Isabel (née Morse) and Mark, a daughter (Lara *Gwynneth).*

WATSON - On 2nd January 1997, to Lucy (née O'Donahue) and Mark, a big healthy boy, Henry James Paul.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

DE SALIS:WELCH - On 9th January 1937 Arthur to Nancy by Bishop De Salis and Reverend Stephen Winter at *St Mary's,* [illegible]

DEATHS

[illegible]

DEATHS

[illegible]

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SERVICES

[illegible]

WANTED

[illegible]

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

[illegible]

WINTER SPORTS

[illegible]

FLATSHARE

[illegible]

SITUATIONS VACANT

[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT & SOCIAL

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

SIR JAMES COMYN

Sir James Comyn, former High Court judge, died in Navan, Co Meath, on January 5 aged 75. He was born in Dublin on March 8, 1921.

James Comyn was reckoned by many to be the finest all-round advocate at the English Bar when he ascended the High Court bench at the beginning of 1978. He had mighty powers of assimilation and recall, a genius for simplification, a golden voice and a warm and winning way. He was as effective before a judge as before a jury.

His most spectacular victory was in 1964 in a libel action taken by the convicted robber Alfred Hinds against Detective Chief Superintendent Sparks, who had stated in his memoirs that Hinds was guilty of the crime of which he had been convicted. Comyn opened for the plaintiff with what the judge in the case described as the most shattering remark he had ever heard in court: "This man Hinds is innocent — and Sparks knows it." Hinds was released after the verdict and the law was subsequently changed to prevent a criminal conviction being again challenged through libel proceedings. But better procedures were established to review miscarriages of justice.

James Peter Comyn was the only child of a barrister from the old Munster circuit, a Clare man — also called James — who with his more able elder brother, Michael, espoused the Republican cause in Ireland in the years immediately preceding independence in 1921. Eamonn de Valera hid in their house during the Irish Civil War and often turned to the Comyn brothers for legal advice in the following years as he fought to displace the Government that had defeated the Republicans in the Civil War.

But when de Valera came to power in 1932 there was a falling out when Michael Comyn was not made Attorney-General. Old James vented the family ire by taking his son away from Belvedere, the Dublin Jesuit day school, and sending him to school in England. Young James went to the Oratory in Birmingham, then at the zenith of its prestige and proud to number among its recent old boys the Duke of Norfolk of the time. It was a long way from the Irish Republican world in which he had been reared.

Assisted by a trust bequeathed by his mother, who had died when he was only two, Comyn went on to read law at New College, Oxford, where he took a second. In 1940 he defeated Roy Jenkins to become president of the Oxford Union by a margin of four votes after several recounts.

Shortly afterwards he suffered the first in a series of nervous breakdowns that were to plague him throughout his adult life. After a period in hospital in Ireland he returned to London, where he worked for the Empire Service of the BBC.

In 1942 Comyn was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple and in 1944 started his pupillage with Edward Holroyd Pearce (later Lord Pearce), going on to join the Pearce Chambers in Fountain Court. He practised on the Western circuit as well as in London. He used to recall how rude some of the judges were in those days, mentioning particularly Rayner Goddard and commenting ruefully: "After Goddard, then Lord Chief Justice, rang me up and asked me to take on his granddaughter as a pupil, I said to myself that he would never be rude to me again. In fact, he was even ruder than before."

Comyn took silk in 1961. He quickly established himself in the first ranks of Queen's Counsel. He was regularly retained by the Official Solicitor and was counsel in a series of cases that established mandatory blood testing in paternity and matrimonial cases. Times Newspapers was another regular client as he argued with success against the efforts of the Labour Attorney-General, Sam Silkin, to injunct a serialisation by *The Sunday Times* of the *Crossman Diaries*. In 1970 Comyn defended Will Owen, the North East Labour MP who was charged with passing secrets to agents of the Czech Government. He was acquitted. With justice it was said at the Bar that "Jimmy Comyn can take the stink out of everything."

As well as being successful Comyn was immensely well liked by his colleagues. To high and low alike he was equally friendly and courteous. He served as chairman of the Bar council in 1974. But it was not inevitable that he would be raised to the bench. He had not volunteered for the Armed Forces in the Second World War and he clung to his Irish passport, although even at that stage IRA violence had deprived Irishness of much of its charm for English people. And, while his courage in facing recurring depressions was admired, his mental health raised questions about his fitness for judicial office.

Nevertheless he was in 1977 nominated by the Labour Lord Chancellor, Lord Elwyn-Jones (he had previously refused a similar invitation from Lord Hailsham) to become a High Court judge. At first he sat in the Family Division for a couple of years but did not relish the regular diet of child custody cases, which he found depressing and troubling. He was, therefore, relieved to be reassigned to the Queen's Bench Division. A man of kindly disposition he proved a lenient sentencer, so confirming a reputation he had first earned as Recorder of Andover when he was known as "Probation Comyn": coming from a more relaxed society it is possible that he did not fully share the Englishman's sense of outrage about crimes of dishonesty or offences against property.

For six months, stretching over 1980 and 1981, he had the distinction of presiding over what was then the longest libel trial in English history, when a member of the Moonies failed in an action against the *Daily Mail*. He missed, however, the companionship of the Bar and found life on the bench rather lonely. The old "Black Dog" returned on several occasions and he resigned on grounds of ill-health in 1985, well before completing the normal pensionable period of 15 years.

Comyn was a model son and nephew to the older generation of his own family and such was his devotion that — in Irish style — he postponed marriage until they had all died. Throughout his time at the Bar he had travelled regularly to Ireland to help to manage an aunt's farm in Co Meath, which he eventually inherited and expanded.

He kept a pedigree herd of Aberdeen Angus cows and at one stage owned Victor, the three-times champion bull of Ireland at the Royal Dublin Society's spring show. He also exhibited at agricultural shows throughout the country during the long vacation, while all the Irish country people he knew accepted him as one of their own.

Any one of Her Majesty's judges was a possible target for IRA terrorists and in 1981 the Provisional IRA burnt his house in Tara to the ground, coincidentally destroying in the process many family memorabilia of the Republican movement in bygone days.

One bonus of retirement from the bench was that Comyn was able to spend more time in Ireland. He occupied much of his time in writing. He had already written a book about his father and uncle entitled *Their Friends at Court*. It was a fine act of *pietas* but those who had known them discerned that it was a gilded picture with much left unsaid. He also wrote books on famous trials, as well as volumes of memoirs and anecdotes, which included some verses of his own. These books were entertaining and easy to read but perhaps not of *lasting value. It was characteristic* of him that his account of his own career was sanitised of anything that was unpleasant.

Comyn married in 1967 Anne Chaundler, a solicitor. He is survived by her and by an adopted son and daughter.

SANDOR VEGH

Sándor Végh, violinist, conductor and teacher, died yesterday aged 91. He was born on May 17, 1905.

SANDOR VEGH was the embodiment of musical spontaneity. "I hate the McDonald's school of music-making" he once said, "with everything the same". As a quartet leader, he would weave a malleable, sweet-and-sour thread of tone in and around his colleagues, coaxing, teasing and never settling for a comfortable "middle course". He habitually balanced visceral excitement with spiritual insight, scholarship with intuition, and a respect for the letter of the score with a striking and sometimes mischievous individualism.

Some critics interpreted Végh's freedom as lack of discipline, his occasionally acid playing as careless, even a mite aggressive. But at his best — in inspired explorations of the mysteries of the great quartets of Beethoven and Bartók — his sincerity and his musical intelligence were both impressive and convincing.

He represented a vanishing generation for whom musicality came first, and virtuosity was merely a means to an end. Everything he touched glowed with life, and even in old age he was a vital presence on the international concert circuit.

Sándor Vegh was born in the Transylvanian town of Koloszvár (now Cluj in Romania). He showed early musical talent, and in 1927 played in a Strauss concert conducted by the composer.

At the Budapest Academy of Music he studied violin with Jenoe Hubay and composition with Zoltán Kodály, and on leaving began to establish a reputation as a solo performer. On one occasion he shared a platform with the great Russian bass, Feodor Chaliapin, who told him that he must try to make his instrument sing like the human voice.

When the Hungarian Quartet was founded in Budapest in 1935, Végh was originally the first violinist, but after a few months he relinquished that position to Zoltán Székely and moved over to second violin.

In 1940 he left and founded the Végh Quartet, with himself as leader. The other members — Sándor Zöldy on second violin, Georges Janzer on viola, and the cellist Paul Szabó — were all distinguished soloists in their own right. After a highly praised debut in Budapest, they embarked on a successful career, first in Hungary, where they were based until 1946, when they won the string quartet prize at the International Music Competition in Geneva and began to build an international reputation.

From its new base in Switzerland, the quartet toured widely in Europe and America during the following decades, and made many recordings, to both popular and critical acclaim. In 1978 Philip Nägeli took over as second violin, and Bruno Giuranna on viola. The quartet disbanded in 1980, but not before its recording of Beethoven's Op 130 had been launched into space by Nasa aboard the space probe *Voyager* in 1978.

In the course of his career Végh performed with many distinguished musicians, striking up an especially fruitful collaboration in the 1950s with Pablo Casals, at whose Prades music festival he frequently played, and with whom he organised summer music courses in Zermatt. In 1962 he founded a chamber music festival at Cervo in Italy, where visiting artists included Yehudi Menuhin, Sviatoslav Richter, and Maurizio Pollini. In the 1980s he worked closely with the pianist András Schiff, almost half a century his junior.

The qualities of sincerity and concentration that characterised his playing as a violinist were carried over into his work as a conductor with such groups as the Camerata of the Salzburg Mozarteum, the Camerata Academica and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. He had his own chamber orchestra from 1968 to 1971.

Végh devoted much of his time to young musicians, insisting that he learnt as much from them as they from him. In 1972 he founded the International Musicians Seminar in a house in the dramatic setting of Prussia Cove in West Cornwall. Under his guidance the seminar gained a worldwide reputation, and its master classes, given by such artists as Ralph Kirschbaum, Thomas Riebel, Andras Schiff and Steven Isserlis, attracted promising young musicians from far and wide.

Végh guided the IMS from its inception until this year, when he was succeeded as artistic director by Isserlis.

He frequently lamented the fact that today's young musicians are too often made to concentrate on technical perfection as an end in itself, to the detriment of character and individuality. In his own work, there was no doubt where the emphasis lay. "I'm very happy that I'm not perfect. I don't like people who are perfect. They are boring and their playing is boring."

Among many honours, Sándor Végh was a Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur, Arts et Literature, and was appointed an honorary CBE in 1989.

He is survived by his wife, daughter and son.

MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN CUBBON

Major-General John Cubbon, CB, CBE, GOC Land Forces, Middle East Command, 1963-65, died on January 5 aged 85. He was born on March 15, 1911.

IT WAS in 1964, during his period in command of Middle East land forces that Johnny Cubbon came to public attention and drew unjustified criticism in the House of Commons after two members of an SAS patrol were decapitated by Yemeni tribesmen and their heads publicly displayed on stakes. The incident became a *cause célèbre* in the run up to the general election of October that year.

On April 30, 1964, during the Radfan campaign in Western Aden, a ten-man SAS patrol, led by Captain Robin Edwards, had been landed by helicopter to mark the dropping zone for the 3rd Parachute Battalion in the Danaba Basin. The operation went awry. A wandering goatherd stumbled on the SAS men's hidden position in a *sangar* (a *defensive breastwork of* stones), and the patrol found itself surrounded by an overwhelming force of tribesmen.

With the help of RAF strikes — Hunter jets strafing and rocketing the enemy to within 30 yards of the SAS positions — the patrol held out against superior numbers until darkness. But the RAF jets could not continue their support once the light had gone and when the patrol broke out at dusk Captain Edwards and the radio operator, Trooper Warburton, were killed.

A month later, information reached Cubbon that the heads of the two British soldiers had been exhibited on stakes in the Yemeni town of Taiz and he announced it at a press conference. A wave of indignation swept the country and was reflected in the House of Commons where the Government was in no position to confirm or deny Cubbon's statement.

Unfortunately the American Ambassador to the Yemen, consulted because Britain had no embassy in Sana at the time, flatly denied the reports. Denis Healey, Labour's shadow defence spokesman, attacked the Government for allowing the release of such emotionally charged intelligence without adequate corroboration, and demanded Cubbon's recall.

But Cubbon *was completely* vindicated in August that year, when the headless bodies of the two men were found in shallow graves in the Radfan. It then transpired that the original intelligence reports had come from US sources. Healey apologised for fixing "personal responsibility on the GOC".

But Cubbon was deeply hurt, feeling that he had been made a scapegoat by the Conservative Government. He retired from the Army in 1965 an aggrieved man, this incident over-shadowing a distinguished 35-year-long career.

A Manxman, John Hamil*ton Cubbon was educated* at St Bees and Sandhurst before joining the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment in 1931. He made no secret of his preference for regimental soldiering rather than staff work. Short in stature and ruddy in complexion, he could be irascible at times, but, once his confidence had been gained, he was the warmest and most sympathetic of masters. He commanded the 18th Brigade during the Malayan Campaign and was promoted major-general in 1960 to command South-West District at Bulford before going out to Aden as GOC in 1963. He had been appointed OBE in 1940, advanced to CBE in 1958 and appointed CB *in 1962.*

After his retirement in 1965, he concentrated upon the Civil Defence organisation in Devon, where he became a Deputy Lieutenant. He married Margaret Yates in 1951. She and their two sons and a daughter survive him.

ON THIS DAY

January 9, 1931

The pontificate of Achille Ratti Pius XI (1922-39) was marked by his denunciation of Fascism and Nazism. A conservative in matters of the Faith, he took interest in new technology and established a broadcasting station at the Vatican.

ENCYCLICAL ON MARRIAGE

THE POPE'S VIEWS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ROME, Jan 8

The Papal Encyclical upon Christian marriage, which his Holiness had intended for the Sacred College of Cardinals at Christmas, was published this evening dated December 31, 1930.

Striking the keynote with the opening words, "Casti Connubii" — by which it will be known — this document of some 16,000 words is likely to take rank alongside the most important encyclicals of modern times. It is marked by great candour of speech and a corresponding vigour of expression. It sets forth the position of the Roman Catholic Church regarding every modern aspect of married life. Thus, for example, the Pope refers to divorce; birth control; temporary, experimental, and companionate marriages; the use of contraceptives; the procuring of abortions; eugenics, with special reference to the sterilization of the unfit; the emancipation of women; sex education; the obedience of the wife to the husband; maternity work; the reaction between poverty and social revolt, and finally the cooperation between Church and State in support of the moral law …

This "inviolable stability" is menaced by pernicious doctrines and loose practices "for today, alas," says the Pope, "not secretly nor under cover, but openly with all sense of shame put aside, now by word and again by writings, by theatrical productions of every kind, by romantic fiction, by amorous and frivolous novels, by cinematographs portraying vivid scenes, by addresses broadcast, by radio-telephones, in short, by all the inventions of modern times the sanctity of marriage is trampled upon and derided; divorce, adultery, and the basest vices are extolled or depicted in such colours as to be free from all reproach and infamy … The doctrines defended … are offered for sale as the productions of a genius which is thought to have emancipated itself from all the old-fashioned and immature opinions of the ancients; and to the number of those antiquated opinions is relegated the traditional doctrine of Christian marriage …

Discussing lastly the attacks upon the sacrament of marriage, the Pope combats the view that matrimony belongs entirely to the profane and civil sphere and utterly denies that the civil act itself should stand for the marriage contract while the religious act be looked on as a "mere addition or at most a concession to a too superstitious people". The fundamental religious character of marriage requires that those about to marry should show a holy reverence towards it and should zealously endeavour to make their marriage approach as nearly as possible to the archetype of Christ and the Church. "They therefore who rashly and heedlessly contract mixed marriages, from which the maternal love and providence of the Church dissuade her children for very sound reasons, fail conspicuously in this respect, sometimes with danger to their eternal salvation" …

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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TRIP TO MAGNETIC NORTH POLE leaving 21st March - 8th April, £4,000. Fit, strong, active & friendly participant required to make up team. Phone Mark Carr 01483 576169

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENDED DIVIDEND
PAX MEDICA EXPORT LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
No 007058 of 1998

Notice is hereby given that the Joint Liquidators intend to declare a First and Final dividend to unsecured creditors of the above named, within a period of four months from the last date of proving.
Last day for receiving proofs - 31st January 1997.
Brian Mills
Moore Stephens Booth White
Sidcup House
12-18 Station Road
Sidcup
Kent
2nd January 1997
Brian Mills, Joint Liquidator

MAHLER CONSULTANTS LIMITED
Registered Number: 2335961
Trading Name: Mahler Consultants Limited.
Nature of Business: Design services
Trade Classification: 7420
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver: 2 January 1997.
Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver: Thames Valley Ventures Limited.
Administrative Receiver: Patrick Bernard Harrington of Morison Stoneham, Mayfair House, 5 Little London Court, Swindon.

ENSTONE ENTERPRISES LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company are required on or before *1 February 1997 to send* in their names and addresses with particulars of their debts or claims to the under-signed Nigel Brownlow Horner of Whatley Weston & Fox, 16 The Tything, Worcester, WR1 1HD the Liquidator of the Company and if so required by notice in writing from the Liquidator personally or by their Solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proven.
N B HORNER - Liquidator
20 December 1996
NB: This notice is purely formal as all known creditors have been or will be paid in full.

HCG LLOYD'S INVESTMENT TRUST PLC
COMPANY NUMBER: 2822313
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, [illegible]
Dated: 31 December 1996
Peter Joseph Bolma -
Joint Liquidator

MILL BUSINESS SERVICES LIMITED
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Peter S Dunn FCA, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kendrick Place, London W1H 3FF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the Creditors on 17th December 1996.
DATED THIS 17th DECEMBER 1996
Peter S Dunn FCA
Liquidator

SUREDGE ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD on Wednesday 15th January 1997 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99,100 and 101 of the said Act.
Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2)(a) of the Act, Mr Stephen James Wainwright of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High street, Manchester, M4 1QD, is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.
Dated this 6th day of January 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
MR C W BOYLE
DIRECTOR

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
THE HONG KONG INVESTMENT TRUST PLC
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

We, David John Pallen and Margaret Elizabeth Mills of Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU hereby give notice that on 31 December 1996 we were appointed liquidators of the above named company.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above company are required, on or before 4 February 1997 to send in their full names and addresses and full particulars of their debts or claims to us and, if so required by notice in writing from us, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 31 December 1996
D J Pallen & M E Mills
Joint Liquidators
N.B. All known creditors have been or will be paid in full, but if any persons consider they have claims against the company they should send in full details forthwith.

The Insolvency Rules 1986
Rule 4.106(1)
YORECO 139 LIMITED
MORTALSPAN LIMITED
BRACKNELL (LADIESWEAR) LIMITED
BRACKNELL 123 LIMITED
DOVETAIL CABINETMAKERS LIMITED
D & R REALISATIONS LIMITED
OAKLAND MENSWEAR
TORQ FASHION LIMITED
SALISBURY LIMITED
FACIA LIMITED
SALISBURY STORES LIMITED
In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation

We hereby give notice that we, M Cohen and P R Copp Licensed Insolvency Practitioners, of BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DA, were appointed Liquidators of the above named companies on 10 December 1996. All debts and claims should be sent to us at the above address.
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to us. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated 23 December 1996
Malcolm Cohen and Peter Richard Copp
Joint Liquidators

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators Charitable Trust
Scheme to widen the charity's beneficiary class
Reference: CF-45325-CD(Ldn)
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at the offices of Berrymans Solicitors, Salisbury House, London Wall, London EC2M 5QN or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Mrs Henrietta Florence May Lowe (3060483)
Scheme for the Regulation of the above charity
Reference: BG-C44869-DC(Ldn)
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at the offices of Messrs Gregsons of St Christopher's House, Tabor Grove, Wimbledon, London SW19 4EX (Ref: HAM/Lowe) or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

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Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Big doesn't mean bad

The Travel Business

◆

HARVEY ELLIOTT

The gulf between leading tour operators and the Consumers' Association widened still further last week with the publication of the *Holiday Which?* survey of customer satisfaction.

Yet again the big names did badly, while the smaller operators came out on top. Airtours was especially scathing of the findings, describing them as "misleading and inaccurate".

Airtours was backed by most of the other big operators, many of whose customers had responded negatively to the survey. The Association of Independent Tour Operators, however, was delighted with the findings. It said they reinforced its view that small was beautiful and that price alone could not be relied on to bring satisfaction.

Both have a point — probably the same one, if they realised it.

Airtours, which came second to bottom in the satisfaction league table, sells about 3.8 million holidays a year for an average summer price of £259 and £189 in the winter. Only 764 Airtours clients, or 0.02 per cent, responded to the survey.

Top of the list for client satisfaction was Swiss Travel Service, a small specialist company offering 20,000 high-quality holidays a year for well over £500 a head.

Fewer than 50 of its clients, 0.24 per cent, filled in the questionnaire and all said they would either "definitely" or "probably" recommend the company to a friend. Members of the Consumers' Association, who are readers of *Holiday Which?* and can afford a Swiss Travel Service holiday, are unlikely to be disappointed with the quality of their holiday or the service.

Conversely, a young family searching for a cheap deal must run the risk of finding some aspect of their holiday that does not live up to expectations.

The survey reveals only that many *Holiday Which?* readers — usually people aware of their rights — are happiest with small tour operators. It does not, as some commentators have suggested, indicate that big tour operators provide poor-quality holidays.

Everyone can learn something from such surveys — including the magazine. To suggest, as it did, that "travel giants are more interested in piling up the profits than providing the holiday of a lifetime" is unworthy. The big operators became big because they listen to what most people want — and then provide it.

Bargains of the week — from three nights in Florence to a taste of tropical India

HOLIDAYS

CITY breaks in Florence, with two going for the price of one, start next Thursday and continue every Thursday until the end of February with Holiday Place. Price: from £286 for three nights' hotel accommodation and return flights from Gatwick. Details: 0171-435 8071.

■ SKI in the French Pyrénées with Borderline this month from £299 for a week, including half-board hotel accommodation in the village of Barèges and return flights from Gatwick. Details: 00 335 6292 6895.

■ NORWEGIAN ski trips from £199 a person for a week's self-catering accommodation in Hemsedal are available from Advantage Travel Centres. Flights are from Stansted and Manchester on January 19 and 26. Details: 0990 881888.

■ TENERIFE for £283 a person for a fortnight's self-catering, including flight from Manchester on January 24, is available from Inspirations. Details: 01293 822244.

■ WALKING tours in the Peak District with an experienced guide are on offer from Countrywide Holidays. Weekend breaks start on January 24 and 31 for £77 a person, including two night's full board accommodation and high tea before leaving on the Sunday. Details: 0161-446 2226.

■ A TASTE of tropical India is on offer from Guerba expeditions. Starting on January 25, February 22 and March 22, 15-day escorted tours go from Kerala to Madras by riverboat, train and bus. The price is £764 a person but flights, from £500, are extra. Details: 01373 826611.

■ FIJI for a week from £799 a person, which includes bed and breakfast accommodation, is on offer from Qantas Holidays. Flights go from Heathrow every Thursday in February. Details: 0990 673464.

■ THREE WEEKS for the price of two in mobile homes on selected European sites from Flanders to the Costa Brava are available in May from French Country Camping. Extra discounts for bookings before January 31. Details: 01565 626266.

See Santa Croce, the greatest church of the Franciscan order, on a trip to Florence for £286

FLIGHTS

BRUSSELS-BOUND business-class passengers on Sabena until January 15 will be given a bottle of champagne. London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, Leeds, Manchester and Bristol flights are covered. Details: 0181-780 1444.

■ THE LATEST British Airways world offer prices on flights from 22 regional airports. Birmingham-Paris costs £99, Manchester-Barcelona £144, and New York from Birmingham, Manchester or Glasgow is available for £199. Details: 0345 222111.

■ CONTINENTAL AIRLINES has fares of £199 to New York from London or Manchester, with Houston priced at £279. Book by January 17. Details: 01293 776464.

■ ALITALIA flights to Rome, Pisa, Venice, Turin or Bologna cost £119 return, provided you book before January 10 and depart by February 28. Details from Lupus Travel: 0171-306 3000.

■ THERE ARE more opportunities for flying between London City and Dublin after January 13 when the Irish airline CityJet boosts its flight schedule to six a day. Excursion fares start at £69. Details: 0345 445588.

FERRIES

STENA LINE has savings of 20 per cent on its Fishguard-Rosslare route for bookings paid for by January 31. A car and up to five people must travel using the afternoon crossing from Fishguard and returning in the morning from Rosslare. Details: 0990 707070.

■ BRITTANY FERRIES has created a new ten-day fare on its four routes to France and one to Santander in northern Spain. The fare on Portsmouth-Caen, for example, is £196, compared with an unlimited return from £260 for a car and two adults. Details: 0990 360360.

■ SEA FRANCE has a £45 fare for a five-day return Dover-Calais until the end of February when paid for seven days in advance of travel. Standard returns cost £75, and both fares are applicable for a car and four passengers. Details: 0990 711711.

■ EUROSTAR is offering inclusive round-trip fares from several UK cities to Paris, Brussels and Disneyland Paris. Special connecting trains to London link with travel onwards from Waterloo. Sample return fares include £72.50 from Birmingham and £99 from Aberdeen to Paris and Brussels. Details: 0345 303030.

HOTELS

DINERS at Fletcher's restaurant in the Selfridge Hotel off Oxford Street, London, receive a free bottle of house wine with their meal this month and next. The restaurant has two AA rosettes. Details: 0171-408 2080.

■ LONDON hotels in the Superbreak Mini-Holidays programme are offering 20 per cent off normal rates this month. The four-star Rathbone Hotel, in central London, for example, costs £46.40 a person a night. Details: 0161-238 5257.

■ THE Citadines Apparthotel in Montmartre, Paris, has a special weekend offer until February 16 of two nights for two people in a studio apartment for £99, including continental breakfast. Details: 00 331 4105 7979.

■ FREE accommodation for partners travelling with conference delegates at weekends until the end of March is on offer from Hilton National. In addition, the weekend 24-hour rate is being reduced. Details: 0645 314151.

■ A 10 PER CENT discount on the cost of hosting a late festive season party before the end of February is offered by the Sheraton Park Tower, in central London. Special room rates are also available until February 15. Details: 0171-235 8050.

■ THE Old Course Hotel, at St Andrews, has a special £99-a-night break until the end of March which includes entry to a prize draw to win one night's stay for two during the Millennium Open championship in July 2000. Details: 01334 474371.

■ GRAND Heritage Hotels has extended its Penhaligon's perfume deal until end of February. Guests staying for two nights receive perfumes and other gifts. Details: 0171-376 1777.

■ THE Concorde Hotel group has savings of up to 35 per cent on offer at 20 hotels throughout Europe until February 28, subject to availability. Details: 0800 181591.

■ INTER-CONTINENTAL Hotels has added Zurich and Barcelona to its Heart of the City weekend break programme valid until the end of March. Details: 0181-847 2277.

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هكذا من الأصل

BA to show in-flight film on drug smuggling

By Harvey Elliott

A HARD-HITTING video is to be shown to passengers on British Airways long-haul flights as part of a Foreign Office drive to warn travellers against becoming the unwitting victims of foreign drug smugglers.

Whitehall officials hope that if the three-month trial is successful other airlines will show this film and five others portraying some of the worst problems confronting British consular officials around the world.

Bob Ayling, British Airways managing director, gave the go-ahead after meeting Dr Liam Fox, Foreign Office minister. Long-haul passengers will be shown *Flashback*, in which a British tourist is asked to bring back a cuddly toy, only to have customs officials discover it contains packages of illegal drugs, and the tourist is then arrested. BA says that the film has received a good response from passengers.

But Alan Flook, secretary-general of the Federation of Tour Operators, says that his members will not show the film on package holiday charter flights. "I understand completely what the Foreign Office is trying to do and I back them in any efforts to prevent someone getting involved in smuggling drugs, however unwittingly," he says. "But 99 per cent of our customers would never be involved in any such thing and it seems completely unsuitable to show them such films when they are looking forward to a relaxing holiday.

"People don't want to confront those kind of images and problems when they are excited by the prospect of a holiday and surrounded with smiling cabin staff. They prefer comedians and light entertainment on the in-flight television."

The Foreign Office has been battling for five years to persuade the travel industry to show films depicting problems faced by tourists. But until now their screening has been limited to television channels at least popular times. The Foreign Office cannot pay for the films to be screened and has to rely on them being used as free "fillers".

The decision by BA to show them will, the Foreign Office hopes, be the breakthrough that leads to other airlines, and eventually all airports, agreeing to let passengers see the warnings.

The short films state that the local British Consul cannot free a miscreant from jail. "We discovered that 70 per cent of people questioned thought that a consul would automatically be able to get someone out of jail," says a Foreign Office official. "We want to let them know that consular staff do not have that power. We are delighted that BA has agreed to the trial, which means that we can show the films to a 'captive audience' before they arrive at their destination."

There are now 1,900 British citizens in prison abroad. More than half of them have been arrested for drugs-related offences. Spain is holding 358, France 281, America 21 and Germany 109. More than £29 million a year — 8 per cent of Foreign Office expenditure — goes on consular work to help Britons abroad.

Ferry prices go overboard in Channel war

By Steve Keenan

FERRY BROCHURE prices are tumbling again as operators look to recover business lost to the Channel Tunnel and to bring in early bookings. P&O and Brittany Ferries have both sharply reduced fares in the first 1997 cross-Channel brochures to appear, which reflect last year's savage price war.

The Le Shuttle service through the tunnel took nearly half the market in 1996. But the tunnel blaze has caused a delay in 1997 prices and forced P&O to publish first.

Holidaymakers who book ferries early will benefit further by paying under £100 for a peak season return — a discount of almost 70 per cent on brochure prices for the same departures last year.

Stena Line this week offered a flat-rate £98 return for any crossing on its routes via Dover-Calais and Newhaven-Dieppe. The offer undercut rival P&O by £1. Both companies demand bookings and payment by February 28.

The knockdown fares are a reaction to other bargains, such as a £79 ticket offered to Sea France customers who paid that price in 1996. They are also designed to encourage customers to book from brochures — unlike last year.

Peter Stratton, P&O's marketing director, says: "Very few people paid brochure prices in 1996. Discount fares meant brochures became irrelevant in the thick of the booking season.

"The aim now is to try to retain sensible pricing. We are also no longer the market leader and have had to adjust prices accordingly."

P&O has dropped peak season returns in its brochure from £326 to £268. Standard returns start at £118, close to the actual average paid by cross-Channel travellers last year. The company's biggest savings — up to a quarter — are on the Dover-Calais route, which accounts for 80 per cent of all cross-Channel travel and where P&O has been hardest hit by Le Shuttle.

On western Channel routes, market leader Brittany Ferries has cut prices by 13 per cent. It has also expanded its package holiday operation in a bid to tie in holidaymakers to its ships.

But the moves by P&O do not reflect a concrete strategy for 1997. It is a holding measure pending the outcome of merger talks with Stena on operations out of Dover. The merger has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which will report back in March. The deal is expected to go through, with conditions ensuring fair competition for other ferry operators.

Should they merge, a new brochure will be published for the main summer period with new fares for the joint operation pitched against Le Shuttle and other rivals.

Declining franc boosts France

By Tony Dawe

TOUR operators specialising in France are hoping that the strengthening of the pound against the French franc will lead to an increase in the number of British holidaymakers crossing the Channel.

Sunsites, the camping and mobile home specialist, as part of a campaign to convince tourists that a French holiday is still value for money, has gone shopping in French and English supermarkets to discover that a basket of 15 items costs £8.96 more in Britain. Last year the difference was £5.18.

Robert Oakley, Sunsites managing director, says: "The movement in the exchange rate has obviously had a favourable impact on food costs. France as a holiday destination still offers very good value, particularly on a self-catering holiday, when you can take advantage of the abundance of fresh produce available at markets."

The food shopping was carried out at the Carrefour in Calais and at Tesco in Britain when the exchange rate was Fr8.47 to the pound.

SHOPPING PRICES

	Prices in sterling	
	France	UK
Baguette	0.26	0.39
Tomatoes (½kg)	0.65	0.76
Fromage frais (12)	1.40	2.39
Milk (1ltr)*	0.36	0.56
Orange juice (1ltr)	0.33	0.64
Apples (½kg)	0.62	0.42
Red wine	0.95	2.89
Beer (10x25cl bottles)	1.90	2.99
Butter (250g)	0.57	0.78
Camembert (250g)	0.78	1.95
Eggs (6)	0.77	0.72
Potatoes (kg)	0.58	0.33

*-UK price for 1.1ltr

Source: Sunsites

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Holidays for four-legged friends

ONLY HORSES

Have pet will travel: the guide has destinations where even a horse owner can find a welcome for her companion

By Jenny Knight

DOGS top the list of pets which owners want to take when they go on holiday, but horse owners are also searching for vacations that welcome their animals.

The latest edition of *Pets Welcome! 1997* — the holiday guide for pet lovers — shows a growth in the number of holidays available for those who want to take their horses.

Bryan and Jane Jackson, for example, of Exford, Somerset, welcome all pets to their smallholding with guest house in the heart of Exmoor, and also provide free stabling.

She says: "Two girls brought their horses last summer. They brought their own feed, a vehicle and a trailer each and they moved on to a different place each night."

The *Pets Welcome!* guide also includes a selection of pubs that welcome animals, with short accounts of four-footed regulars. Gina, a Newfoundland dog, makes a daily solo visit to the Winged Horse in Basildon, Essex, for a pub lunch of biscuits and a beer, while Flippy, a mongrel, visits the Flying Bull near Petersfield, Hampshire, for biscuits and coffee and then pops over the road to The Sun for a packet of cheese biscuits.

A spokesman for *Pets Welcome!* explains: "Dogs are the most popular animal holiday companions, but one woman turned up with two ferrets on a lead, which she took for walks like dogs." Anne Cuthbertson, the editor, says: "This edition provides a wider selection of accommodation where pets and owners are welcome."

London is revealed as the capital of pet-hating hoteliers with only two entries. One is in Kingston upon Thames. The St Athan's Hotel in Tavistock Place, near Russell Square, offering free accommodation to pets, is the sole entry for central London.

Elsewhere, hoteliers tend to greet pets more enthusiastically. One dog lover, quoted by the guide, wrote to a country hotel in Ireland to ask if his dog would be allowed to stay.

The owner replied: "I have been in the hotel business for 30 years. Never yet have I had to call in the police to eject a disorderly dog. Never has a dog set the bedclothes alight through smoking. I have never found a hotel towel in a dog's suitcase. Your dog is welcome. PS: If he can vouch for you, you can come too."

Top resort faces rooms shortage

By David Churchill

HOTEL ROOMS in the top-selling long-haul destination of Orlando, Florida, are in short supply for this summer.

UK tour operators are finding it difficult to reserve enough hotel space in Florida to meet a boom in demand. And Thomson Holidays says that sales of packages to Orlando this summer are already 20 per cent ahead of last year.

The Florida Division of Tourism says the state as a whole is heading for a 15 per cent increase, as a record 1.4 million British holidaymakers are due to fly in.

Brian Booker, the managing director of the specialist operator Unijet America, says: "It is becoming harder and harder to find the budget Orlando hotels that the British market is used to. British operators cannot get the rooms at the same prices as they did 18 months ago."

Finding hotels on Disney property is also a problem. "For every Disney hotel we can book," Mr Booker says, "there are two or more unsatisfied clients."

The problem is that the strength of the American economy has increased domestic demand for Orlando hotels. Convention business in the area has also risen. At the same time, higher demand from British tourists because of the strength of sterling has enabled Orlando hotels to push up prices.

Colin Brodie, Florida's director of tourism in the UK, says that Britons travelling to Orlando must be prepared to pay realistic prices for their hotel rooms. "There has been too much emphasis on the budget end of the business, which is now harder to meet," he says. The typical price for a self-catering apartment hotel in Orlando is now around $100 (about £60) a night.

The popularity of Orlando as Britain's top long-haul holiday destination has been helped by heavy advertising this year by Walt Disney World. The theme park resort is now running its first national television campaign, which also offers a free video about the resort, as well as holiday offers from Unijet.

The airline says that about 300,000 holiday videos from Disney have so far been requested.

Affair with malt proves a tonic for Scotland

By Steve Keenan

SCOTLAND is expecting a tourism tonic this autumn when the French renew old acquaintances over a whisky or two.

The inaugural Scotch Whisky Festival in Edinburgh in October is expected to attract almost 10,000 overseas visitors, spending an estimated £5 million. The French will be the biggest contingent, reflecting their increasing love affair with malt.

France is Scotland's fastest-growing whisky export market. Sales there last year reached £225 million, second only to the United States with £258 million.

Alan Twigg, the festival spokesman, said: "In terms of visitors, France will be our biggest market. Even the French Whisky Appreciation Society has been in touch."

The festival, backed by the Scottish Tourist Board, is also receiving calls from travel organisers in Spain, the Far East, North America and Brazil.

Kenyans may raise safari fees to save parks

By Tony Dawe

CHARGING tourists a higher premium to visit and stay in the most popular game parks in Kenya is being considered as part of a plan to prevent overcrowding and to encourage visitors to explore the country's lesser known parks and reserves.

David Western, director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, says that the present $12 (about £7) differential in entry fees to the best-known and less-visited parks may have to be increased. And discounts for accommodation may have to be limited to lodges in more remote areas.

"Kenya is already a mass-market holiday destination and we have to turn that to positive advantage," he says. "Six parks account for 90 per cent of the tourism, yet we have 59 parks and reserves. We should consolidate mass tourism in the main areas but consider higher charges for entry and accommodation for places such as the Aberdare and Tsavo national parks which are relatively close to Nairobi and very popular.

"On the other hand, we could drop the fees for parks like Hell's Gate which is becoming increasingly popular with hitchhikers as a 'walk-in' park but is bypassed by most visitors."

The restructured wildlife service, which was formerly a military organisation, has been encouraging the sort of developments in remote areas which are essential if tourists are to be attracted to them.

Small tourist lodges that fit into the landscape and contain beds for 12 to 15 visitors are being built of local materials and will be staffed by local people. The service is also helping to train tourist scouts in many areas and to develop tourism plans.

In the Samburu reserve in northern Kenya, the service has sent in commissioners to liaise with landowners and help them to form wildlife associations to allow animals to roam more widely. "Our major role," Dr Western says, "is to be brokers between local communities, landowners and the tourists who want to visit them, while at the same time conserving wildlife and the environment."

His service has been criticised, however, by some tour operators for being too restrictive on tourist activities in the game parks. "We have said 'no' to balloon safaris, for example, because they are too intrusive," he says. "We are not trying to stop these activities or the development of walking and camel safaris but believe they should take place outside the national parks."

The Serena Hotels group, which owns properties in Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar, is offering 12 different itineraries for the first time this year so that tourists can combine visits to game parks in the two mainland countries with time on the beach.

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THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY JANUARY 9 1997

NEWS

Keegan forced out by bankers

■ Kevin Keegan resigned as manager of Newcastle United after bankers forced his hand to allow the club's £150m stock market flotation to go ahead smoothly.

He had twice threatened to step down. But NatWest Markets, the merchant bank backing the flotation, told the club at a secret meeting on Tuesday that if Keegan really wanted to go, he must go now. The club should not risk his departure while its shares were being marketed .... **Pages 1, 5**

Branson ponders future flights

■ Richard Branson will return to Britain and his family of his after the near-fatal collapse of his attempt to be the first man to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon. The latest brush with death has shaken his confidence and has put a question mark over any planned future daredevil adventures.........**Pages 1, 9**

Blair tax promise

Tony Blair has ruled out a 50p top rate of tax to reassure voters that a Labour government will not penalise the better off to pay for spending programmes .....**Page 1**

Yeltsin ill again

President Yeltsin was taken to hospital suffering from pneumonia two weeks after recovering from major heart surgery **Page 1**

Boy, 10, arrested

A 10-year-old boy was arrested after an argument outside a primary school in which a woman's eye was pierced by a kitchen knife. Doctors said she was fortunate not to be blinded......**Page 1**

Euro fines

Member states of the European Union are to face heavy daily fines if they disobey the European Court of Justice under rules agreed by the European Commission ....**Page 2**

Protection for ducks

The Government is to impose a two-week ban on the shooting of ducks, geese and other wildfowl from tomorrow to help the birds survive the cold weather ..**Page 2**

Forgetful mothers

Women who claim to be losing their minds during pregnancy can take some comfort from new scientific evidence which suggests that they can expect the full return of their faculties soon after giving birth......................**Page 3**

TV polls plan

ITV's record-breaking television phone-in programme on the monarchy, which attracted 8.3 million viewers and 2.6 million voters, is likely to be the first of many televised polls .... **Page 6**

Trauma centres

A network of 24-hour trauma centres is needed to replace the "fragmented and haphazard" National Health Service treatment of accident and emergency cases, a conference was told ....**Page 8**

Jordan clash

Jordanian security forces clashed with 4,000 demonstrators protesting against the first Israeli trade fair in Amman................**Page 10**

Royal command

The Grimaldi dynasty celebrated 700 years of absolute rule over its tiny principality as Prince Rainier III of Monaco urged his bachelor son to find a wife........... **Page 11**

Father Jerzy

Beatification procedures for Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest murdered by communist secret policemen in 1984, are likely to be set in motion by the Vatican .... **Page 12**

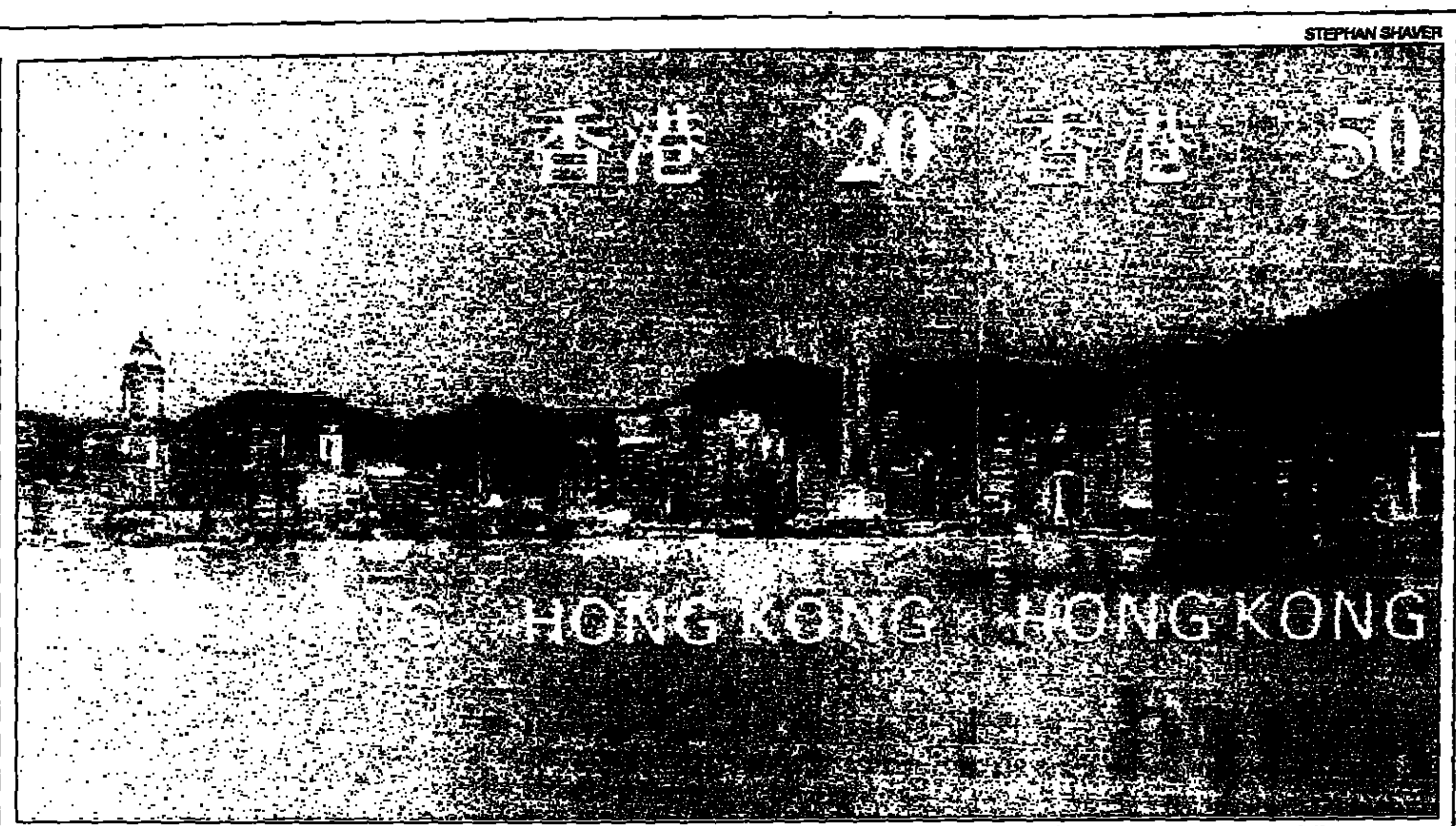
Gingrich relief

When a subdued Newt Gingrich left the House of Representatives after his narrow re-election as Speaker and apology for past behaviour, President Clinton sent his congratulations .... **Page 13**

Scots accused of discrimination

■ The spirit of Bannockburn, Flora Macdonald and Robert Burns were evoked at an Edinburgh tribunal to show that the Scots are different from the English. Graham Power, 49, the Yorkshire-born Deputy Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders claims that he was left off the shortlist for Chief Constable in the Northern Constabulary because he is English........ **Page 3**

STEPHAN SHAVER



Hong Kong's new postage stamps, to be issued on January 26, together show a panorama of the city's skyline, avoiding any reference to sovereignty. They will replace stamps showing the head of the Queen. Howe's warning, page 10

BUSINESS

Super rich: Britain's super-rich went on a spending spree last year. Christie's International and Phillips raked in the spoils, while Rolls-Royce Motor Cars toasted a leap in UK sales ....**Page 23**

Dixons: The electricals retailing group, warned the stockmarket that a change in taxation rules on extended warranties could hit profits next year ....**Page 23**

Internet: The cable industry challenged British Telecom by offering to connect thousands of schools to the Internet and online services at fixed, cut-rate prices ....**Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 8.7 to 4087.5. Sterling was unchanged at 96.1 after a fall from $1.6958 to $1.6881 but a rise from DM2.6485 to DM2.6539.........................**Page 26**

SPORT

Rugby union: Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, has been recalled for the five nations. Will Greenwood, the Leicester centre, is also chosen..............................**Page 41**

Cricket: Dominic Cork, Jack Russell and Andrew Caddick are set to play in England's opening match in New Zealand against a Cricket Academy XI .... **Page 38**

Tennis: Tim Henman reached the quarter-finals of the Sydney International tournament by fighting back from a set down to overpower Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 .... **Page 40**

Racing: Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of the Rugby Football League, has emerged as a contender to succeed as chairman of the Tote................................ **Page 39**

ARTS

New films: Barbra Streisand's new film *The Mirror Has Two Faces* is more of a vanity show than a motion picture; while *Some Mother's Son* is a powerful depiction of the grief surrounding the Maze hunger strike..................................**Page 33**

Out this week: Martin Scorsese's masterly film, *Raging Bull*, heads the list of the new videos released this week; Charles Mackerras records Beethoven's First and Third Symphonies.......................**Page 34**

Irish triumph: Martin McDonagh enhances his reputation with his fine play for the National, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*........**Page 35**

Strong drama: Webster's drama of horror and revenge, *The White Devil*, now transfers to the Barbican...........................**Page 35**

FEATURES

Winning the PR war: The companies Sir Tim Bell commands form the SAS of the political lobbying world. Michael Cockerell details the rise and rise of his influence .... **Page 15**

HEALTH

Diet: Dr Thomas Stuttaford says a well-balanced diet should provide all the body needs but supplements can be beneficial ....**Page 14**

BOOKS

Historic fantasy: Roger Scruton on heritage; Peter Ackroyd on London; Christopher Hawtree on living death; Daniel Johnson on Hitler's intrigues .... **Pages 36, 37**

TRAVEL

Going overboard: Channel ferry prices are down again as the tunnel war continues..................... **Page 21**

Bargains: Three nights in Florence and a taste of India.......... **Page 20**

THE PAPERS

It cannot be said that diplomacy is the strongest suit of Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister. Barely a week into the presidency of the EU, he has had to undo the damage caused by his Finance Minister, who pooh-poohed the desire of the Mediterranean members to be a part of the first tier of monetary union — *El Mundo*, Madrid

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Michael Cockerell explores the murky world of political lobbying. (*BBC2, 9.30pm*). **Review:** Lynne Truss of an expletive-rich return of the bin men........**Page 39**

OPINION

Virtual democracy

The conduct of Carlton Television's debate on the monarchy was not impressive. But the number of those who wanted to register their position — and the passionate anger of those who failed to do so — certainly was .... **Page 17**

Service changes

Domestic service is a boon to labour mobility and an excellent way of reducing unemployment**Page 17**

Poland's Becket

No murder had such devastating impact in Eastern Europe as the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the champion of Solidarity. Like the murder in an English cathedral 800 years earlier, the crime brought low not only its perpetrators but the cause in whose name they acted .... **Page 17**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I came out of *Guys and Dolls* feeling like a million dollars; so did a throng of teenagers 50 years younger than myself. I think the Queen should go and see it to cheer herself up about the future of the country ....**Page 16**

PETER HAIN

Deals over beer and sandwiches by a government lurching from one crisis to another is a familiar caricature, but Labour doesn't want to turn the clock back: the solutions of the 1960s don't fit the 1990s. Centralised meddling is not the answer..................................**Page 16**

JOHN BRYANT

Do real sportsmen wear gloves? Or, for that matter, tights, vests and woolly hats? As the British winter bites, increasing numbers of footballers have taken to wrapping up for warmth — much to the scorn of the purists........................**Page 41**

OBITUARIES

Sir James Comyn, former High Court judge; **Sándor Végh**, violinist; **Major-General John Cubbon**, commander in Aden ....**Page 19**

LETTERS

John Redwood on national sovereignty; preservation of hedges; income tax cuts...........................**Page 17**

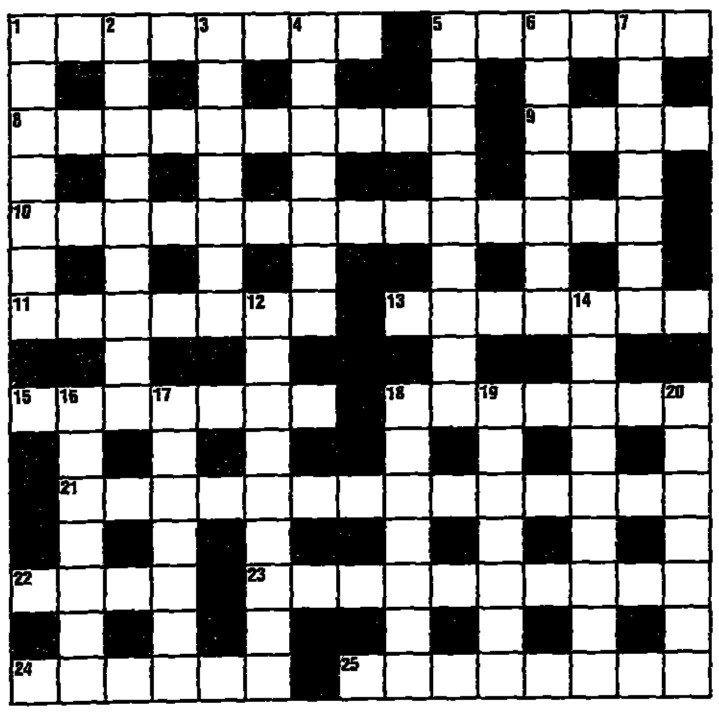
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POP
David Sinclair on Bowie at 50, and other ageing rock stars

■ BERNARD LEVIN
A surfeit of Lloyd Webber: why are there so few new plays in the West End theatre?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,372



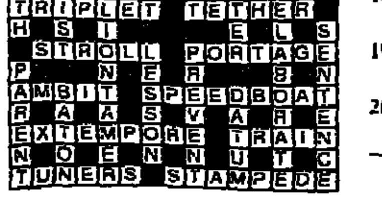
ACROSS

1 Weapon for creator of Utopia on earth (8).
5 Motorway madness is an illusion (6).
8 Eliza's aim? (10).
9 Time to return, all the same (4).
10 Something synthesizer's capable of for 50s group (4,10).
11 Repeated performance to capture some tennis prize (7).
13 Cutting consultation with MP (7).
15 Silly man holding a black jumper (7).
18 Regrets bird no longer existing in the mountains (7).
21 Progressive goal — find work or bust (7-7).
22 Consort with criminal in Flanders (4).
23 Liable to bad taste? Don't exaggerate (10).
24 Missed ball in one US sport — everything hit in another (6).
25 It's safe to go over shoulder on motorway (4,4).

DOWN

1 Room in bank hard to get inside (7).
2 Judgment of a friend includes endless approval (9).
3 Power to capture both rooks, giving brilliant mate (2,5).
4 Joiner knocked up last of three-piece suite (7).
5 Such a painting calls for quite a little skill (9).
6 Taking exercise like a gentleman? (7).
7 He complains poor organiser is missing (7).
12 Composed a rebuttal that settled old scores? (9).
14 Get rid of queen and ace, then require to discard heart (9).
16 Ran off furiously, beginning to take offence (7).
17 Bay I heard was dangerous to sail near (7).
18 Trust is what's central to agent about to have double existence (7).
19 Doctor ready to film disappearance of satellite (7).
20 Propose going eventually to split up drunken guests (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,371



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Times Two Crossword, page 44

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly 5C (41F); lowest day max: Dunkeswell, [illegible] -2C (28F); highest rainfall: Fair Isle and [illegible], 0.09in; highest sunshine: Hunstanton, Norfolk, 6.4hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Very cold again in England and Wales. Southernmost England will have rather persistent but mainly light sleet or snow. Eastern England likely to see light wintry showers. Mainly cloudy, the best of any cloud breaks probably in the west

Cold again in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Generally dry with bright or perhaps sunny intervals, these chiefly in northwest Scotland, where some freezing fog patches are also expected.

☐ **London, SE, Central S, SW England, Channel Isles:** Cloudy, mainly light sleet and snow at times Wind east or northeast, fresh perhaps strong, moderating later. Cold. Max 1C (34F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E, Central N, NE England:** Rather cloudy, with perhaps the odd light snow flurry. Wind east or northeast, fresh becoming light. Cold. Max 1C to 2C (34F to 36F).

☐ **W Midlands, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** Mainly dry but generally cloudy. Wind east or northeast, fresh becoming moderate. Cold. Max 1C (34F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** It will be generally cloudy, perhaps with the odd sleet or snow flurry. Wind east or northeast, light to moderate. Cold. Max 2C (36F).

☐ **SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** A few bright intervals but generally cloudy, although staying dry. Perhaps isolated freezing fog patches for a time. Wind easterly, mostly light. Cold. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Outlook for Friday and Saturday:** Snow will spread east across most parts of the country, eventually turning to rain. It will become milder.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

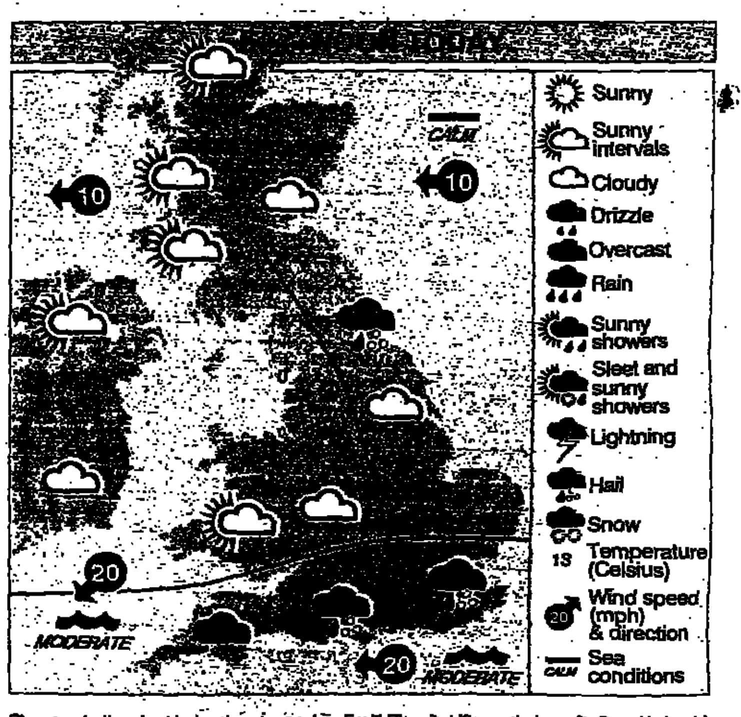
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X				
Anglesey	6.2	-	1	34	s
Aspatria	2.5	-	2	36	c
Aviemore	-	0.01	-1	30	c
Belfast	-	-	2	36	c
Birmingham	0.1	0.01	-1	30	c
Bognor R	-	-	-1	30	c
Bournem'th	-	0.01	-1	30	sn
Bristol	-	0.01	-1	30	sn
Buxton	0.2	-	-1	30	du
Cardiff	-	0.01	-1	30	sn
Clacton	-	-	-1	30	c
Colwyn Bay	X				
Cromer	5.5	-	1	34	s
Eastbourne	-	0.01	-1	30	sn
Edinburgh	-	-	2	36	du
Eskdalemuir	-	0.01	0	32	sn
Exmouth	-	0.01	-1	30	sn
Falmouth	-	-	1	34	c
Fishguard	0.9	0.01	-1	30	c
Folkestone	-	0.01	-1	30	du
Glasgow	-	-	2	36	c
Guernsey	-	-	1	34	c
Hastings	-	0.01	-2	28	c
Hayling I	-	0.01	-1	30	sl
Herne Bay	-	-	1	34	c
Hove	-	X	-1	30	du
Hunstanton	6.4	-	1	34	s
Isle of Man	-	-	1	34	c
Jersey	-	0.01	2	36	c
Kinloss	-	0.01	1	34	du
Leeds	-	0.01	2	36	c
Lerwick	2.6	0.04	3	37	sh
Leuchars	-	-	1	34	du

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Littlehmptn	-	-	-1	30	du
London	-	0.01	0	32	du
Lowestoft	0.4	-	0	32	c
Manchester	2.5	0.01	2	36	b
Margate	-	-	-1	30	du
Minehead	-	0.01	-1	30	sn
Morecambe	X				
Newcastle	-	-	3	37	c
Newquay	-	-	0	32	c
Norwich	1.6	-	-1	30	b
Oxford	X				
Penzance	X	-	1	34	du
Poole	-	0.01	0	32	sn
Prestatyn	X	-	1	34	s
Ross-o-wye	-	0.01	-1	30	c
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	-	-	0	32	du
Saunton Snd	-	-	0	32	du
Scarboro'	-	-	3	37	du
Shanklin	X				
Shrewsbury	1.8	0.01	0	32	d
Skegness	4.5	-	2	36	s
Southend	X				
Southport	2.1	-	1	34	s
Southsea	-	-	0	32	c
Stornoway	2.3	0.01	4	39	b
Teignmouth	-	0.01	0	32	sn
Tenby	-	0.01	0	32	c
Tiree	-	-	2	36	c
Torquay	-	0.01	0	32	sn
Tynemouth	-	-	4	39	c
Ventnor	-	-	-1	30	du
West-s-mare	-	-	-1	30	sn
Weymouth	-	0.01	-1	30	c

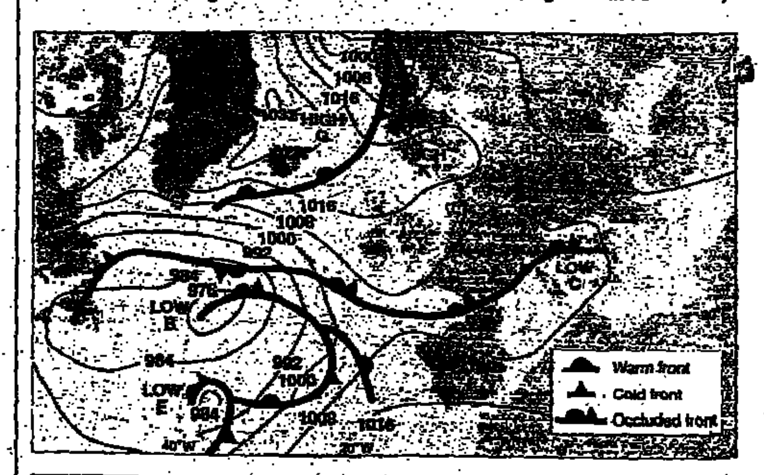
ABROAD

Ajaccio	13	55	f	Corfu	15	59	f	Majorca	10	50	s	Rome	13	55	f
Akrotiri	17	63	f	C'phagn	-4	25	c	Malaga	9	48	f	S Fr'sco	13	55	s
Alex'dria	25	77	s	Dublin	2	36	c	Malta	13	55	f	S Paulo	31	88	c
Algiers	12	54	c	Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Melb'rne	18	64	f	Salzburg	-4	25	c
Ams'dm	-4	25	c	Faro	10	50	r	Mexico C	X	X	X	Santiago	21	70	s
Athens	16	61	f	Florence	11	52	f	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	-4	25	sn
B Aires	19	66	r	Frankfurt	-5	23	s	Milan	6	43	r	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	20	68	s	Funchal	18	64	r	Montreal	-10	14	s	St'kholm	-5	23	f
Bangkok	31	88	s	Geneva	1	34	c	Moscow	-13	9	c	Strasb'rg	-4	25	c
Barbados	X	X	X	Gibraltar	9	48	r	Munich	-6	21	fg	Sydney	19	66	s
Barcelona	8	46	s	Helsinki	-2	28	s	N Delhi	17	63	s	Tangier	14	57	r
Beirut	20	68	f	Hong K	18	64	f	N York	2	36	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	c
Belgrade	0	32	f	Innsbrck	-2	28	s	Nairobi	24	75	c	Tenerife	23	73	s
Berlin	-5	23	sn	Istanbul	9	48	f	Naples	12	54	f	Tokyo	12	54	s
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	29	84	s	Nice	11	52	f	Toronto	-7	19	sn
Biarritz	8	46	s	Jo'burg	24	75	f	Oslo	-9	16	s	Tunis	14	57	f
Borde'x	1	34	c	L Angels	X	X	X	Paris	-5	23	c	Valencia	9	48	s
Brussels	-5	23	c	L Palmas	21	70	f	Peking	-4	25	s	Vanc'ver	3	37	r
Budapest	-1	30	c	Le Touquet	-6	21	f	Perth	34	93	s	Venice	7	45	r
Cairo	25	77	s	Lisbon	8	46	r	Prague	-9	16	sn	Vienna	-2	28	c
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Locarno	3	37	r	Reykjavik	-3	27	f	Warsaw	-6	21	sn
Ch'church	21	70	s	Luxembg	-5	23	c	Rhodes	16	61	f	Wash'ton	X	X	X
Chicago	-7	19	s	Luxor	26	79	s	Rio de J	29	84	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	X
Cologne	-3	27	f	Madrid	0	32	f	Riyadh	21	70	s	Zurich	-1	30	c

Temperatures at midday local time Tuesday X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low E will fill as it drifts north; lows B, C and I should lose their identities; high G is expected to slip east then north; high K remains stationary



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	01.27	7.1	13.51	7.3
Aberdeen	01.00	4.4	13.18	4.5
Avonmouth	07.01	13.7	19.27	13.7
Belfast	10.51	3.6	23.18	3.6
Cardiff	06.47	12.6	19.13	12.6
Devonport	05.32	5.5	18.00	5.4
Dover	10.42	6.8	23.10	6.8
Dublin (N Wall)	11.18	4.3	23.51	4.2
Falmouth	05.09	5.3	17.31	5.2
Greenock	00.03	3.3	12.38	3.6
Harwich	11.48	4.1	-	-
Holyhead	10.09	5.8	22.33	5.7
Hull (Albert D)	06.06	8.6	18.24	8.9
Ilfracombe	05.47	9.4	18.11	9.4
King's Lynn	06.08	6.7	18.28	7.1

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	02.18	5.6	14.36	5.7
Liverpool	11.03	9.7	23.27	9.7
Lowestoft	09.14	2.5	21.30	2.6
Margate	11.55	4.7	-	-
Milford Haven	06.00	7.1	18.25	7.1
Newquay	04.52	7.1	17.16	7.1
Oban	05.39	4.2	17.57	4.1
Penzance	04.20	5.7	16.43	5.6
Portland	06.56	2.2	19.30	2.1
Portsmouth	11.08	4.8	23.36	4.8
Shoreham	10.56	6.4	23.29	6.4
Southampton	10.30	4.7	23.00	4.7
Swansea	06.04	9.7	18.29	9.7
Tees	-	-	-	-
Walton-on-N	11.40	4.3	-	-

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

New moon today

Sun rises: 8.04 am
Sun sets: 4.12 pm
Moon sets: 5.08 pm
Moon rises: 7.45 am

London 4.12 pm to 8.03 am
Bristol 4.22 pm to 8.13 am
Edinburgh 4.01 pm to 8.39 am
Manchester 4.11 pm to 8.21 am
Penzance 4.40 pm to 8.19 am

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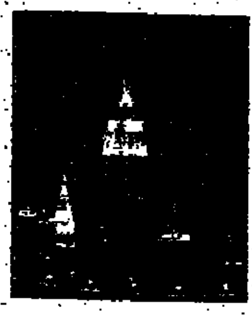

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'Queen of Mean' ready to defend her Empire
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Barbra Streisand does things her way in her new film
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SPORT
Back returns to England reckoning
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook
THURSDAY JANUARY 9 1997

Bank breaks pension rules

Lloyds fined £325,000 for mis-selling

By Robert Miller, Banking Correspondent

LLOYDS BANK, the high street clearer that owns TSB, is the latest household name to be caught up in the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal, attracting a £325,000 fine from a City watchdog.

Imro, the regulator for fund managers, yesterday announced that Lloyds Bank had been found guilty of three serious rule breaches on pension transfer business. The infringements related to investors being wrongly advised to transfer money held on their behalf in occupational schemes into a personal pension plan.

Lloyds, which faced the fourth largest fine levied by Imro in its nine-year history, must also pay £65,000 towards the cost of the regulator's investigation, as well as making an estimated contribution of £25,000 towards the watchdog's disciplinary costs.

The bank said "we deeply regret the errors which have resulted in charges being brought against us by Imro for the pension transfer business we did between April 1988 and June 1993".

Imro said that over the five years pensions sales staff at Lloyds had failed to obtain all the relevant facts about the personal and financial circumstances of each investor. Nor did the bank provide certain customers with the vital information they needed to enable them to make "a balanced and informed decision on whether to carry out a pension transfer".

Lloyds, said Imro, had "not always advised relevant customers that a personal pension might not result in as high a pension as could be expected by remaining in their employer's pension scheme".

In the last full set of financial accounts issued by the Lloyds TSB group at the end of 1995 the bank stated that £165 million had been earmarked for compensation payments to thousands of investors who were mis-sold pensions by members of the enlarged financial services combine.

The compensation liabilities cover Lloyds Bank and its subsidiaries Abbey Life and Black Horse as well as the more recent acquisitions of TSB and its life arm and Hill Samuel Life.

Pennington 25

Lloyds, which sold a total of 107,000 personal pension plans between April 1988 and June 1993, said yesterday that the bank had identified 2,600 pension transfer investors as priority cases under the guidelines published by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog. Of these, some 1,500 are expected to be offered payments worth an average of £4,000 each and 164 people have already been offered compensation.

Both Lloyds and TSB are also the subject of High Court actions over personal pensions mis-selling as are NatWest and insurers such as the Prudential, Pearl and Legal & General.

A total of 210 writs have been issued by the Bristol Mercantile Court at the request of Ringrose Wharton, the Bristol law firm acting on behalf of members of the Royal College of Nursing, GMB, Britain's largest general union, and Unison, the public sector workers union.

Philip Ryley, head of the pensions unit at Ringrose Wharton, said: "By issuing court proceedings rather than going through the SIB process we are focusing the attention of companies to review transactions as quickly as possible and also to come forward with compensation offers which are acceptable and, in some cases, with extra cash damages."

Lloyds is not the first high street bank to be singled out by City regulators in the pensions scandal. In July 1994, the life and pensions arm of Barclays Bank was publicly reprimanded by the SIB, which does not have the power to fine, for inadequate training and supervision of sales staff and a failure to keep proper customer records.

In November last year, the SIB acted to speed up the pensions mis-selling review, which has fallen way behind the original timetable and is expected to leave the industry with a £4 billion bill in costs and compensation. To date only £50 million or so of compensation has been offered.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Camera angle: John Clare, chief executive of Dixons, trying out a camcorder at the Marble Arch store yesterday

Dixons fears tax will hit profits

By Sarah Cunningham

DIXONS, the electricals retailing group, gave warning yesterday that a change in taxation rules on extended warranties could hit profits next year, and that some of the cost is likely to be passed on to customers in higher prices.

John Clare, chief executive, said it was now clear that an increase from April in insurance premium tax, from 2.5 per cent to 17.5 per cent, announced in the Budget, is meant to apply to extended warranties. These account for around 8.5 per cent of group sales and some 10 per cent of pre-tax profits, so group profits in 1998 could be hit by up to £20 million.

The company is hoping to recover some of the tax and is looking at price rises on warranties and products. "In practice, we believe some of it could be recoverable," Mr Clare said. "We will do everything in our power to ensure that any hit on profits is minimised or eliminated." He was speaking as he revealed first-half pre-tax profit up 53 per cent, to £57.5 million. Like-for-like sales grew 8 per cent, and continued at the same rate in the Christmas period.

Analysts have left their forecasts for this year unchanged. But several cut their 1998 forecasts by around £15 million, to £210-£215 million, because of the tax change. The company said trading was going well, but the high street was not experiencing an Eighties-style boom. It declined to comment on reports that it is planning to buy the Harry Moore chain of electrical retailers in Dublin. The interim dividend, due on March 3, is 2.5p (2.05p).

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Tempus, page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4087.5	(+8.7)
Yield	3.81%	
FTSE All share	2009.44	(+5.29)
Nikkei	18680.38	(-215.81)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6581.42	(-19.24)*
S&P Composite	753.42	(+0.19)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{3}{16}$%*	($5\frac{1}{8}$%)
Long Bond	$96\frac{12}{32}$*	($96\frac{7}{32}$)
Yield	6.78%*	(6.79%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{15}{32}$%	($6\frac{21}{32}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	$108\frac{7}{16}$	(108 [illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6885*	(1.6948)
London:		
$	1.6883	(1.6953)
DM	2.6529	(2.6493)
FFr	8.9651	(8.9467)
SFr	2.2951	(2.2937)
Yen	195.41	(195.46)
£ Index	96.1	(96.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5762*	(1.5643)
FFr	5.3255*	(5.2835)
SFr	1.3653*	(1.3535)
Yen	115.83*	(115.26)
$ Index	98.9	(98.6)

Tokyo close Yen 115.33

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$23.90	($24.00)

GOLD

London close	$355.75	($359.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Xtra value

The City expects the Halifax building society to pay out higher than expected bonuses to its members when it converts to a bank. More details of the Halifax's plans and the share distribution to its eight million members are due out tomorrow with the transfer document.
Page 24

Smaller picture

Philips, the troubled electronics giant, is to loosen ties with Grundig, the television and stereo manufacturer, in an effort to cut costs.
Page 29

Morgan in court over liquidation

By Jon Ashworth

INVESTORS in the failed Global Opportunity Fund go to court in the Cayman Islands today, in their battle with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank.

The investors, including wealthy Americans, are seeking the appointment of an independent liquidator to the fund, which was worth $120 million before a run of redemptions led to its suspension. Morgan Stanley has proposed Christopher Morris of Deloitte & Touche. The investors favour Neil Cooper of Robson Rhodes. A ruling is expected tomorrow.

The investors are separately suing Morgan Stanley in Luxembourg for $50 million, alleging negligence. Morgan Stanley Bank Luxembourg acted as administrator and custodian of the Global Opportunity Fund, and provided monthly valuations. The fund was domiciled in the Cayman Islands. Morgan Stanley has sought to distance itself from the debacle, saying it relied on false valuations submitted by the fund manager, InterCapital Asset Management (ICAM). However, the investors *contest* that Morgan Stanley is more deeply implicated than it would wish to concede.

In papers submitted in court in Grand Cayman, they allege that Morgan Stanley in Luxembourg made no attempt to independently verify figures supplied by ICAM. They say they were encouraged to invest on the strength of Morgan Stanley's name.

Morgan Stanley yesterday defended the proposed appointment of Mr Morris, describing him as "one of the world's most highly regarded international liquidators". His assignments include Banco Ambrosiano and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

NY brokers arrested in exam scam

THE Manhattan district attorney has arrested 53 stock brokers over accusations of cheating on their qualifying exams (Richard Thomson writes from New York).

The brokers are alleged to have paid impostors to take their broking licence examinations. Without a licence a broker cannot legally give advice to the public or trade on behalf of clients.

One broker has pleaded guilty, but those arrested include two "ringers", who apparently took the tests for others, one middleman, who appears to have helped to arrange the scheme, and 50 brokers, who are said to have paid stand-ins.

The brokers, some of whom had failed the exam, apparently asked middlemen to arrange paid ringers to take the exam in their place. One ringer is said to have taken the test 28 times for 17 people, while another took it 22 times for 15 people.

Cable operators offer schools link

By Eric Reguly

THE cable industry issued a challenge to British Telecom yesterday by offering to connect thousands of schools to the Internet and online services at fixed, cut-rate prices.

The offer was welcomed by Oftel, the telecommunications regulator. It has been pushing the industry to provide Internet access to schools at prices that will not break their budgets. Cable companies and BT have been eager to respond because the country's 30,000 schools represent an enormous and largely untapped market for electronic educational services.

Tariffs set by the cable companies will guarantee unlimited access to Internet links for no more than £100 a year for schools with up to 250 pupils, rising to £500 a year for schools with more than 500 pupils. Stephen Davidson, chairman of the Cable Communications Association, said the prices will only allow the industry to recoup its costs. "But the effort is worthwhile because we can showcase our capabilities to the audience of the future," he said.

Mary Marsh, head teacher of Holland Park School, London, and a member of Oftel's educational task force, said: "A fixed price with unlimited use is exactly what is needed to open access to the Internet and online communications for all students and teachers."

Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Telecommunications, invited BT to compete with the cable companies to wire up schools. BT said it would work with Oftel to devise ways of making electronic services "more attractive to the educational market". In 1995, BT told Labour that it would provide schools with free connections to its networks in exchange for greater regulatory freedom under a Labour government.

Whitbread buys more nurseries

WHITBREAD yesterday continued its journey away from its brewing roots with the £2 million purchase of five nursery schools from rival operator, Busy Bees (Alasdair Murray writes).

The deal makes Whitbread the largest operator of private nursery schools in Britain, with 24 sites. The pre-school care market is valued at around £1.35 billion this year.

The group entered the market when it bought David Lloyd Leisure in 1995. The health and fitness business owns 19 nurseries under the Gatehouse brand, with 12 sites operating at its health and fitness clubs.

Steve Philpott, the managing director of David Lloyd Leisure, said that Whitbread aimed to open around three new sites a year.

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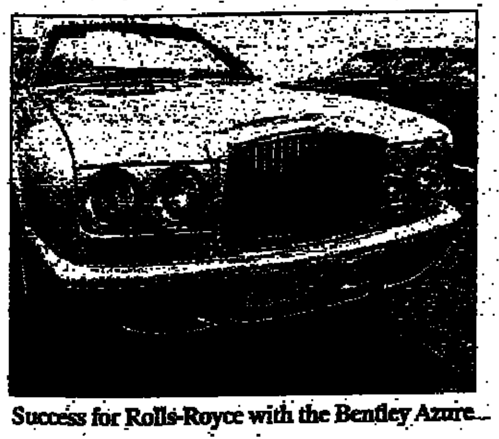
Rich pickings for Rolls-Royce and Christie's

By Jon Ashworth



Success for Rolls-Royce with the Bentley Azure

BRITAIN'S super-rich went on a spending spree last year, fuelling the fortunes of fine-art auctioneers and luxury car makers.

Christies International and Phillips raked in the spoils, while Rolls-Royce Motor Cars toasted a huge leap in UK sales.

Rolls-Royce sold 638 cars in Britain last year, eclipsing sales elsewhere in the world. UK sales were up 29 per cent on 1995, driven by demand for models such as the Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn and the uprated Bentley Brooklands. The successes of the Bentley Continental T and the Bentley Azure have done much to raise the profile of the marque.

Worldwide sales rose 12 per cent to 1,744, up 188 on the previous year. Prices range from £106,866 for the Bentley Brooklands to £220,312 for the Bentley Continental T. America is the second biggest market.

Britain provided equally rich pickings for Christie's, which reported worldwide auction sales up 9 per cent to £1.016 billion in 1996. The UK followed the Asia-Pacific as the second biggest area of growth.

A sale of Old Master pictures and drawings in London realised £20.4 million — the largest total for an Old Master sale at Christie's in five years. Raphael's *Study for the Head and Hand of an Apostle* sold for a record £5.3 million.

It is only the third time that Christie's has achieved sales of more than £1 billion. It did so in 1989 and 1990, only to see figures slide to £583 million in 1991. They have recovered steadily since. Lord Hindlip, chairman of Christie's, said that growth in 1996 was broadly based, with increases in almost all categories of works of art.

There was similar cheer for Phillips, which saw worldwide auction sales rise 16 per cent to £113.5 million. Modern British and Irish Pictures contributed to a marked upturn in London.

In Geneva, the historic Excelsior I diamond fetched £1.75 million.

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Canon

Halifax payout may be £1,400

By Marianne Curphey

THE Halifax building society's planned Stock Exchange flotation and conversion to a bank could result in each of member of the UK's largest mortgage lender receiving an average payout of £1,400 — well above the original estimate of £1,000.

The society will tomorrow publish its transfer document, giving details of its plans and the likely share distribution to the 8 million qualifying members, of which 2.5 million are borrowers. A further 3 million customers do not qualify to vote on the conversion.

Analysts upgraded their payout estimates after members of the Woolwich building society learnt this week that they were likely to receive payouts of at least £844 and up to £5,437 each when the society converts in July. That would make an average payout of £1,200, 25 per cent greater than was predicted.

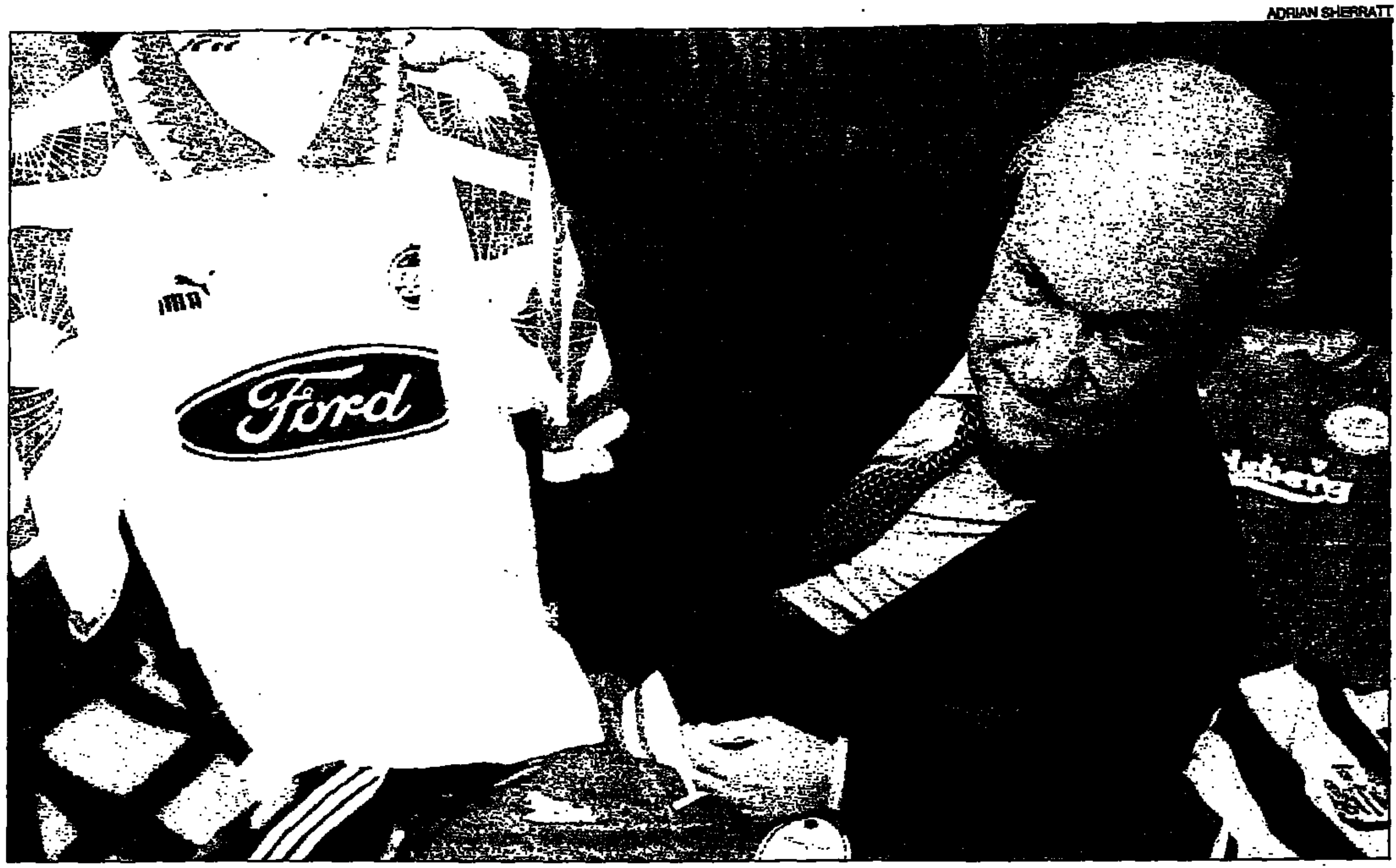
Analysts have also increased their estimates for the likely size of the Halifax float to around £11 billion, from £10 billion.

This reflects the market's confidence in the most comparable stock. Abbey National, the first and only building society to become a bank to date. When Abbey floated in 1989 its shares were worth 130p and members were given an average 100 free shares each. When the National & Provincial building society became part of Abbey last year, savers and borrowers were given an average of 89 shares worth 567p each.

Yesterday, Abbey shares rose 5p to 758p, an increase of 191p per share, giving the average former N&P member who held on to their shares a paper profit of almost £170.

Of the 5.4 million shareholders created when Abbey coverted to a bank in 1989, 2.5 million remain. Nearly 90 per cent of former N&P members have kept their shares.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



David Sebire, chairman of Robert H Lowe, with the latest selection of football shirts. The company saw pre-tax profits rise to £2.4 million

NU with-profits payout fixed at record £870m

By Gavin Lumsden

NORWICH UNION, the mutual insurer that is planning to float on the Stock Exchange this year, is to make its biggest payout on mature with-profits policies, with more than £870 million going to around 53,000 members.

However, although it has broadly maintained bonus rates these have fallen below those of its rival insurers, Friends Provident and General Accident, which announced their rates on Monday.

NU, which is expected to give details at the end of March of its conversion to a quoted company, kept annual bonus rates on its unitised business level at 6.5 per cent for savings contracts and 7.5 per cent for pensions. This is lower than Friends Provident, with 6.75 per cent and 8.25 per cent respectively, and GA, with 7.25 per cent and 8.5 per cent.

Additional rates were increased for money saved since 1990. Rates on conventional with-profits life policies remained steady, with 2.5 per cent annual and 4.5 per cent additional bonuses. In contrast, Friends Provident paid 3 per cent and 4.5 per cent, and GA, 3.25 per cent and 6.75 per cent respectively.

The total payout on a ten-year endowment maturing on January 1 fell £500, to £9,765, but rose £644 on 25-year policies, to £93,179. NU also cut additional bonuses on conventional with-profits pension policies by 1 per cent, to 4.5 per cent, but held the annual bonus at 2.5 per cent.

Richard Harvey, group finance director, said that the payments were fair and would beat other insurers who have yet to declare. "Norwich Union has a very large amount of business — over £100 million is being paid out on 25-year policies — and is careful to make sure that the payout reflects the underlying investment performance. Some offices have had little business and can pay more."

General Accident said new business for 1996 had passed £1 billion for the first time and it had paid policyholders between 5 per cent and 10 per cent above underlying investment performance.

Zeneca cool on acquisitions

ZENECA GROUP, the UK pharmaceuticals company at the centre of persistent takeover speculation, said yesterday that it saw no need for strategic acquisitions, and had yet to come across any takeover opportunities that offered both "value and quality."

In a final interview before the company enters its closed reporting period, David Barnes, chief executive, said: "I am not against acquisitions per se but they have to offer value and quality, and most of the opportunites that have come up have failed on one or both criteria."

Mr Barnes also underlined his confidence in the group's ability to meet his "inspirational target" of effectively doubling profit in the next five years, with all three businesses contributing to the improvement. He said Zeneca's focus is the roll-out of a raft of new products, including the asthma drug Accolate, the schizophrenia drug Seroquel and its new agro-chemical fungicide Amistar, which he described as "the biggest single product we've got in the Zeneca portfolio."

Euro 96 helps to lift sales

By Fraser Nelson

GERMANY's victory in the Euro 96 championship helped Robert H Lowe, the manufacturer of replica football kits, to almost double its sales in the year to October 31.

The company, which supplies replicas of Germany's football kit, turned in sales of £30.5 million (£15.8 million) for the year, after demand shot up across Europe.

David Sebire, the chairman, found Liverpool was the most popular top, selling 700,000 strips. Newcastle United was second and Germany jumped to third.

A first-time contribution from W Smith, its newly purchased packaging company, saw the division's sales leap from £4.23 million to £11.6 million. This took overall pre-tax profits to £2.4 million (£1.3 million).

After a low tax charge of 6 per cent, claimed from the company's heavy losses in the early Nineties, earnings were 2.3p per share (1.5p). The total dividend was lifted to 0.3p (0.2p) with a final 0.2p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

British firms more optimistic than rivals

A DRAMATIC optimism gap is opening between British business and competitors in France and Germany who are "extremely gloomy" about 1997 as their economies are squeezed in an attempt to meet the criteria for membership of a single European currency. The latest European Business Survey from Grant Thornton International and Business Strategies found that British owner-managed businesses are confident about 1997. Two thirds of those surveyed expect turnover and output to rise, 57 per cent expect to increase profitability and 38 per cent to expand their workforce.

The picture in Europe is bleaker, particularly in Germany and France. In Germany, a quarter of respondents expect turnover and output to fall and 46 per cent expect lower profits. In France, 22 per cent expect lower turnover and output and 31 per cent lower profits. In Germany, 40 per cent of owner managers think prices will go down. The equivalent figure in France is 37 per cent.

Phone jobs to go

KINGSTON COMMUNICATIONS, the telephone company owned by Hull City Council, is to make 300 people redundant as a result of increased competition, it was announced yesterday. A spokesman said that discussions between the management and the unions are continuing over the severance details. The council also revealed that more than 500 other workers have accepted severance deals, either by voluntary redundancy or early retirement, to save £18 million on next year's budget to meet the Government's financial targets.

Film units to merge

MENTORN FILMS and Barraclough Carey Productions agreed to merge yesterday to form Mentorn Barraclough Carey, Britain's largest independent production company. The new company will not be quoted on the London Stock Exchange. George Carey, the expanded group's director of programmes, said the merger will help it to compete with BBC, Carlton, Granada and Pearson in the production of documentaries, children's programmes, entertainment, news and drama. "The golden age of the small independent producer is coming to an end," he said.

NTT ringing the world

NIPPON Telegraph and Telephone (NTT), the world's largest phone company, said that it plans to break out of its core Japanese market and offer international telecoms services to European, Asian and American companies by the end of this year. A new NTT division, called NTT Europe, yesterday asked the Department of Trade and Industry for a licence to carry communications services. NTT also plans to register as a carrier in Germany and France and construct high-speed information lines linking Europe, America and Japan. It said that partnership, mergers and acquisitions will be considered.

Coca-Cola clearance

THE European Commission indicated yesterday that it would this month clear the £700 million sale of Cadbury Schweppes' 51 per cent stake in Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages, the UK bottling company. Last summer, Cadbury struck a deal with Coca-Cola Enterprises, which owns the minority stake, to sell out of the company. But the sale ran into regulatory problems, with rivals concerned that the deal would increase Coca-Cola Company's hold on the European soft drinks market. Coca-Cola Company owns 42 per cent of Coca-Cola Enterprises. Final confirmation is expected on January 22.

Capital Corp warning

CAPITAL Corporation, the casinos operator, yesterday warned investors that full-year pre-tax profits would be between £8.5 million and £9 million, against market forecasts of up to £11 million and down from the £13.1 million reported last time. The company blamed the absence of high-rollers and adverse gaming results last month. The costs of launching the Colony Club had also been absorbed, the company said. Capital has pledged to maintain the total dividend at 8.1p a share. The results are due on March 11, while Capital shares fell 5p to 155p yesterday.

Service bid withdrawn

SERVICE Corp International, the US funeral services company with extensive UK interests, has withdrawn its $2.9 billion takeover bid for The Loewen Group, its chief competitor. The sector is highly fragmented and now consolidating. SCI cited actions taken by Loewen since the hostile bid was launched in September, including a succession of acquisitions and the implementation of lucrative severance packages for its directors. In December, Loewen said it had signed or closed acquisitions totalling $325 million since Service made its hostile bid.

Cookson in £27m deal

COOKSON, the industrial materials group, has completed the £27 million acquisition of GRP from Saint-Gobain. GRP, based in the state of New York, is a supplier to the glass industry. The acquisition will complement Vesuvius, an existing division at Cookson, but no job losses have so far been announced. Richard Oster, Cookson chief executive, said: "This acquisition will allow Vesuvius to continue to build on their presence in the substantial glass furnace market." The deal was initially mooted last October.

Sports fund gains momentum for rapid 66% growth

By Jason Nissé

MOMENTUM Premier Sports Partners, the only dedicated sports investment fund so far, yesterday showed why the sector is generating such keen interest: it has grown 66 per cent in the eight months since its launch.

The figures are welcome news for a new fund being announced today in association with Alan Hansen, the football pundit. However, the news also contained a warning about the excitement generated by football club investment.

Michael Goldman, the hedge fund manager and Chelsea fan who runs the Momentum fund, said that it had considered launching a specialist football fund but that the sector was far too narrow.

He cited a problem in the shares of some of the clubs traded on the Ofex matched-bargain market, which include leading teams such as Liverpool, Arsenal and Everton. All have shown massive gains in the last year.

Momentum, based in London, Bermuda and Tel Aviv, has only raised $5 million for its offshore-registed Premier Sports fund so far. However, there has been a great deal of interest and Momentum expects to raise the sum to as much as $20 million over the next few months.

The best investments have been Glasgow Rangers, Nike and options in Fila, the Italian sports goods maker. The fund grew by more than a fifth in the first six months but was boosted even further by a strong December, when the value of its investments grew more than 40 per cent.

Other investment groups that have shown an interest in the sector include Singer & Friedlander, Mercury Asset Management and Nomura International.

Pennington, page 25

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.24	2.08
Austria Sch	19.60	18.10
Belgium Fr	57.49	53.19
Canada $	2.402	2.242
Cyprus Cyp£	0.829	0.774
Denmark Kr	10.66	9.86
Finland Mkk	8.51	7.86
France Fr	9.34	8.69
Germany Dm	2.80	2.59
Greece Dr	433	408
Hong Kong $	13.73	12.73
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Israel Shk	5.77	5.12
Italy Lira	2711	2566
Japan Yen	209.50	193.50
Malta	0.651	0.596
Netherlds Gld	3.120	2.890
New Zealand $	2.53	2.31
Norway Kr	11.48	10.68
Portugal Esc	276.50	258.00
S Africa Rd	8.48	7.68
Spain Pta	230.00	217.00
Sweden Kr	12.44	11.64
Switzerland Fr	2.42	2.24
Turkey Lira	193000	181000
USA $	1.791	1.681

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

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☐ Lloyds brought to account ☐ Can Matthew Clark sparkle again? ☐ Whitbread targets the youth market

A sorry state of affairs

☐ THERE is a marvellous scene in the film *A Fish Called Wanda* where John Cleese is suspended upside down out of the window of a Docklands apartment and forced to express contrition. "I am sorry," he deadpans. "I am truly sorry. I am really very, very sorry..."

Lloyds was in similarly solemn penitential mood yesterday, as the bank dangled over Imro's window-ledge. "Lloyds Bank deeply regrets the errors.... We are deeply sorry ... A complete overhaul of business procedures." Good thing too, because what Lloyds did in the five years to 1993 would have disgraced Roger Levitt. To have come from one of our most respected high street banks simply shows how far up the industry the mis-selling went.

Lloyds' staff were turned loose armed with a few days' training and reliant for their living almost entirely on commissions — the unspeakable in pursuit of the financially unsophisticated. They didn't bother to find out whether customers needed a different pension or whether they would lose money by transferring. Such behaviour was normal practice then.

Imro is not saying which other institutions are under investigation, but the TSB, regarded at the time as the hardest of hard sellers, is facing court action, and its regulatory come-uppance cannot be too far off. But one has to wonder, and not for the first time, the point of levying a third of a million or so off such huge financial institution. We are assured that the fines would have been higher but for the bank's co-operation.

This is an extraordinary statement. Given the need to identify and compensate victims, any institution that refuses to co-operate deserves to be shut down, with jail sentences for those employees who are feeling unhelpful. But plenty are refusing, with impunity, to help the Personal Investment Authority's inquiry into mis-selling to half a million customers.

By comparison, Lloyds has acted well, even if none of its staff have been disciplined because two management changes since 1993 have successfully muddied the waters.

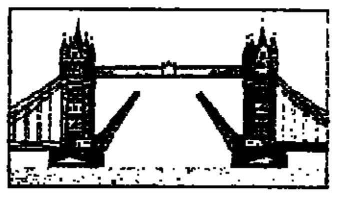
There is a surreal, Alice-in-Wonderland quality to all this to the outsider, not helped by the tangle of acronyms involved. Imro governs fund managers and can fine. The SIB governs, among others, the Prudential and the West Bromwich Building Society, heaven knows why, and cannot. Why not? The bogged-down PIA is a separate body again.

This mess is not going to sort itself out unaided. It is intolerable that a scandal like this can drag on for the best part of a decade since the wrongdoing was committed through bureaucracy, inertia and self-seeking evasion. It is now down to the next Parliament. Perhaps one of the main political parties could take a promise into their pre-election posturing. No one ever lost votes by kicking banks and insurance companies.

Happy hour again for cidermaker?

☐ ANY number of fund managers ended last year dearly wishing that they had never heard of Matthew Clark, the cidermaker that was one of the worst stock market casualties of 1996. Next week they will have their chance to renew the relationship.

PENNINGTON



The City can be a remarkably forgiving place, and the company may be forgiven the piles of cash that those fund managers lost last year if there are further profits ahead. The shares, now at their lowest ebb for almost seven years, look like they are heading for a recovery. They sell on seven times this year's profits, or about half the average for the sector, which suggests either that there is further trouble ahead, or that the City has overdone the fall.

The City always overreacts, and there are good reasons for supposing that the worst is over. Peter Aikens, the chief executive and a man whom many consider lucky still to be in that job, started the rot with a warning in September about the effects of burgeoning alcopops sales on his Diamond White, which competes for the same youth market. He will announce half-way figures on Tuesday and a vital trading update. Forecasts for profits for this full year are in the £45 million area, but no one really knows — some fear, probably wrongly, that a higher advertising spend could push the figure below £40 million. A few words of reassurance on Tuesday that the decline has bottomed out would work wonders.

Pity the poor analysts. Dumbfounded by the sudden collapse of one of their go-go stocks and without the usual whispered guidance from the company, they are unable to produce firm forecasts until their hands are held again. However, their discomfort could be the investors' gain. There should be no more bad news from Matthew Clark. Mr Aikens has used up all his nine lives and if he is reassuring on Tuesday, as he must be, he knows that he had better be telling the truth. He would not survive another shock.

The shares look a good two-way bet; if they stay at this level, a bid from one of the bigger drinks groups attracted by well-known brands such as Blackthorn cider looks inevitable. More likely they will rebound once the City regains its nerve.

Growth potential in the nursery

☐ SOMEONE, somewhere, is going to become very rich over the next five to ten years out of private nurseries. Women now make up almost half the workforce, and for high-fliers the pressure is on to minimise employment breaks. The structure of the business is strikingly similar to that of nursing homes a few years ago, and plenty of entrepreneurs, despite recent scandals, made their fortunes there.

The pre-school care market is worth £1.34 billion a year, a fifth of this comprising nurseries of the kind Whitbread, for entirely logical reasons, bought five of yesterday. There are no nationwide chains yet, although one American concern is well advanced down the franchising route, and most of the industry is in the hands of single-nursery operators. The economics work thus. Each child brings in £100 a week or upwards. A qualified worker can look after as many as eight older children at once, being paid something like £250 a week plus additional employers' expenses. The sites are expensive to kit out, and planning permission can be a trial. Any business requiring heavy initial investment and then producing such strong cash flow is suited to being part of a larger chain.

Branding encourages customer loyalty and reassures the parents that their little darlings are in safe hands. Regulation by local authorities is strict, and likely to become more so. The first stock market float of a specialised nursery chain cannot be too many years away.

Another yellow card

☐ WHAT a splendid day for Singer & Friedlander to launch a new investment vehicle devoted entirely to football. Kevin Keegan's sudden departure from Newcastle United has cast a pall over the club's stock market flotation this spring. How much worse for investors it would have been if the club had floated, and then he had quit. This column two days ago highlighted the dangers of football investment, with the pay-off line "You have been warned". You have now been warned again.

Asda may open bank

By Caroline Merrell

ASDA, the UK's fourth biggest supermarket chain, is considering following rivals J Sainsbury and Safeway by launching a bank.

The supermarket, which has 210 stores nationwide, said it was looking at various options in the financial services sector. A spokesman said: "It is always a possibility. It is not something we want to comment on." The store is believed to have been in talks with the Royal Bank of Scotland about providing the banking services. A spokesman for the bank said: "We do not comment on speculation."

The store is already piloting a loyalty card in 20 of its stores, but claims that it has no plans to make the card available nationwide, unlike rivals Sainsbury, Tesco and Safeway. Archie Norman, executive chairman of Asda, said that extending the availability of the card would be expensive.

Last year, Sainsbury became the first supermarket chain to announce that it planned to offer banking services to its customers, through a joint venture with Bank of Scotland. The move was swiftly followed by Safeway, which linked up with Abbey National.

At the end last year, Mr Norman, said that the group planned to stick to the "simple business of shopkeeping" rather than follow its rivals into financial serivices. However, he added: "I do not rule it out." Asda made profits of £160 million in the six months to November 9 last year — an increase of 15.8 per cent. As well as the big increase in profits, sales grew 10.2 per cent, the biggest increase in the sector.

If Asda decides to follow Sainsbury and Safeway down the banking route, then pressure will mount on Tesco to provide similar services.

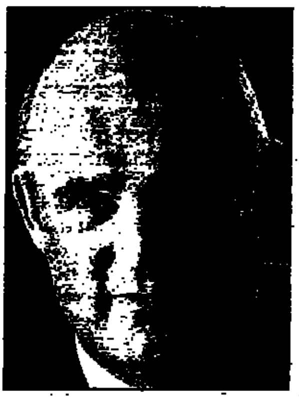
United Biscuits will make £35m charge to cover disposals

By Alasdair Murray

UNITED BISCUITS, the snack foods company, revealed yesterday that it will make a £35 million exceptional charge to cover the goodwill write-off and costs associated with the sale of five of its international snack food businesses.

The company said that proceeds from the sales would total £10 million and the net effect of the disposals would be modestly earnings-enhancing. The five subsidiaries had net sales totalling £42 million in 1995 and made a combined operating loss of £2.6 million.

Eric Nicoli, chief executive, said the disposal of the businesses had been made to tidy up and strengthen the balance sheet leaving the company with a solid platform for future growth. He added that full-year trading was in line with expectations.



Nicoli: "tidy up" operation

United has made a series of disposals in recent months as it attempts to withdraw from loss-making markets. Last month the company sold its Ross Vegetables subsidiary for £44 million and revealed it would take a £55 million write-off following the sale.

The latest disposals include a 60 per cent stake in ICA Spa, the Italian snack food company, which has been bought by the management and minority shareholder. United continues to operate in the Italian market through its subsidiary KP Snackfoods.

The company added that it is in negotiations to sell its 30 per cent stake in Karigda, the second-largest snack food company in Turkey. United has also closed its small operations in Hungary although retaining a presence in the Hungarian biscuit market through Gyori Keksz.

The other sales include an 84 per cent stake in S&A Lda, the Portugese snack food company to Grefusa, the Spanish food company, completing the company's withdrawal from the Iberian market, and the disposal of a 46 per cent interest in Aguia, the Brazilian snack food company, to the majority shareholder. The shares closed up ½p, at 209½p.

Tempus, page 26

Tills ring at JJB and Merchant

By Sarah Cunningham

BUOYANT trading before Christmas and the craze for replica football kits helped JJB Sports, the sports retailer, to report strong sales for the first 11 months of its financial year.

In the 48 weeks to December 29, sales at stores open for the whole period were 12 per cent ahead, the company said yesterday. It also disclosed that it has this week closed its three Spanish shops and expects this to cost it up to £400,000.

David Whelan, chairman, said that he was particularly pleased with progress by JJB's superstores. There are 21 out-of-town superstores and ten in-town, out of a total of 170 stores. JJB plans to open 38 stores in 1997, all but five of them superstores. A flagship 21,000 sq ft store in Oxford Street, London, is to open at the end of March.

Wallis: sales up

Elsewhere, like-for-like sales by the Perfume Shop, part of the Merchant Retail Group, of which David Wallis is managing director, rose 18.6 per cent in the nine weeks to January 4. Group sales rose 17.1 per cent. Joplings, the department store division, reported a 3.3 per cent rise in like-for-like sales. Poor weather hit the start of its January sale, it said.

Scardino takes helm at Pearson

By Our City Staff

SHARES of Pearson rose 8½p to 738½p yesterday as Marjorie Scardino officially took over as chief executive of the media and leisure company.

Ms Scardino, who becomes the first woman to head one of Britain's leading companies, has already said that Pearson's profit performance has been inadequate and disposals are expected as she aims for greater focus on core businesses.

Ms Scardino, a 49-year-old Texan, was formerly chief executive of The Economist Group, a magazine company half-owned by Pearson. Pearson said Ms Scardino spent her first day "meeting the troops" at the company's London headquarters.

Analysts are hoping for swift action to focus a company that is accused by critics of failing to exploit its prestigious assets.

Surge at British Borneo

SHARES of British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, the oil explorer with interests in the Gulf of Mexico, rose 85p yesterday to 937½p (Carl Mortished writes). Since Tuesday, when the company announced it had acquired an interest in BP's Nirvana field in the Gulf, British Borneo has gained 17 per cent in value or £86 million.

Bullish appraisals of its prospects in the Gulf of Mexico and hopes that it might attract a bidder have caused the shares to rise almost fivefold since January last year. However, some say the price may have gone too far. "There is just too much blue sky built up in that stock," said one broker.

☐ Enterprise Oil announced a successful well test on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. The test produced gas at a 34.6 million cubic feet per day level plus 3,208 barrels of condensate.

Oil search, page 26

ADT call to reject bid by Western

From Richard Thomson in New York

ADT, the security services and vehicle auction company headed by Michael Ashcroft, yesterday issued a profit warning for the fourth quarter as it advised shareholders to reject a $3.5 billion takeover bid by Western Resources that it says is too low.

ADT said that it expected its net income for the last quarter of 1996 to drop by about $60 million because of a one-off charge relating to new businesses, including the integration of Automated Securities Holdings, and investment in new technology.

ADT anticipates a total charge of $110 million, which will be partly offset by a gain arising from the sale of the company's remaining interest in Limelight, the UK supplier of home improvement products.

It said that the integration of the businesses into ADT should bring about significant future cost savings.

ADT is contesting a the bid from Western Resources, which launched its offer late last year. The offer is substantially less that the aborted $5 billion bid from Republic Industries, run by Wayne Huizenga, the entrepreneur, which collapsed when Republic's share price fell sharply.

Although many analysts believe that the offer by Western is fair, ADT says the $22.5 per share cash and stock offer is inadequate.

Western has spent months stalking ADT, building up a 27 per cent stake in the company before launching its bid. If it wins the takeover battle it is expected to break up ADT by selling off the car auction business, which is one of the largest in America.

Shortfall in patients knocks TC

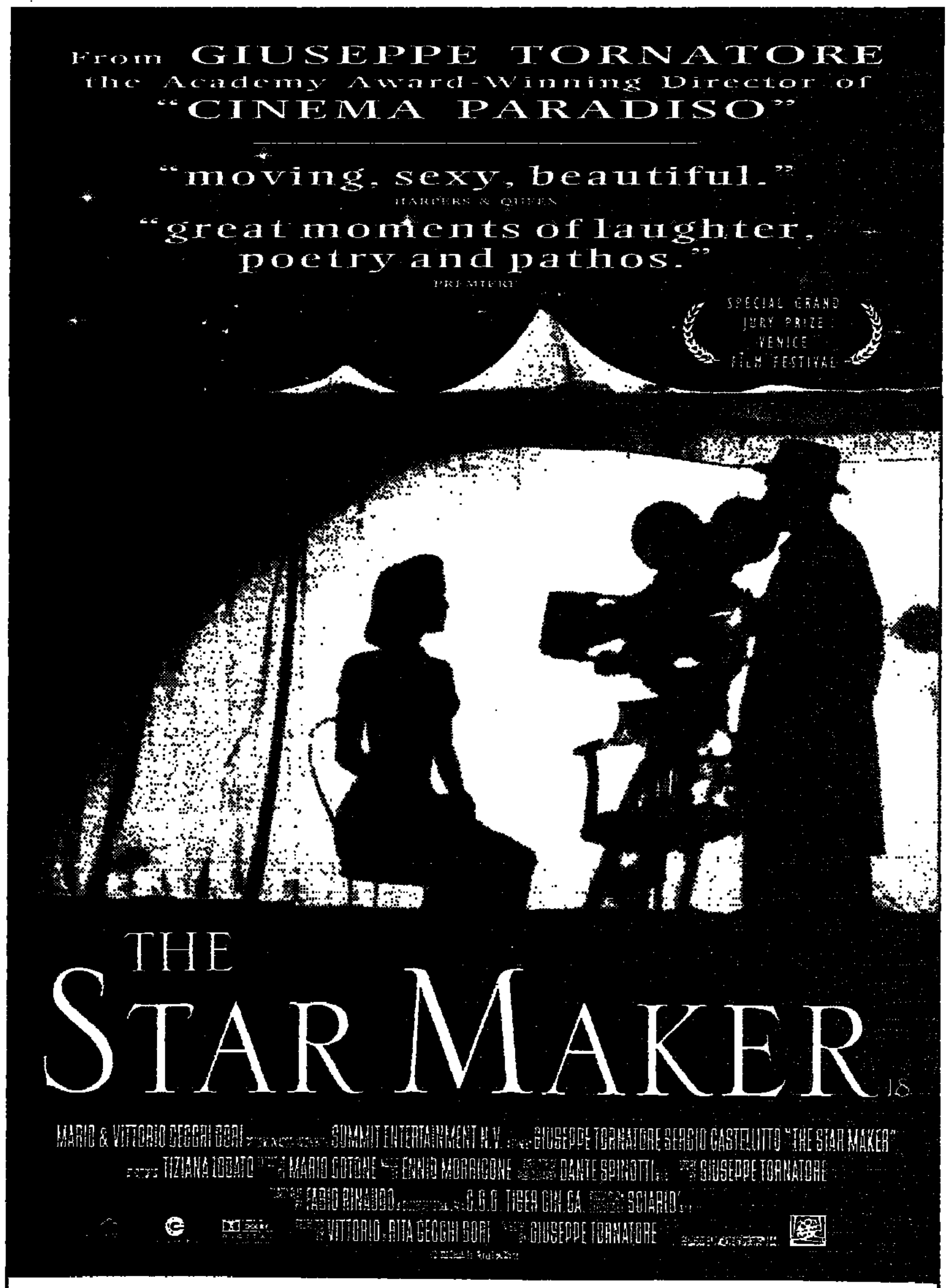
THE City yesterday downgraded its earnings forecasts for TC Group after the nursing home company said its new homes were attracting fewer patients than expected (Eric Reguly writes).

The shares fell 25p to 114½p, putting them below their previous low of 122½p.

Chai Patel, chief executive of TC, which was formed last year by the merger of Takare and Court Cavendish, said the 22 homes opened in the past 12 months were filling slowly because of funding contraints from local authorities. He said: "The climate will remain fairly tough for the next year."

Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, downgraded TC's 1996 pre-tax earnings forecast from £19.3 million to £18.4 million. In 1997, it is calling for pre-tax earnings of £23 million against its previous forecast of £28.4 million.

Tempus, page 26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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Worries over sterling and interest rates hit shares

MOUNTING prospects of a rise in interest rates and sterling's strength continued to undermine sentiment.

Early gains among equities were halved as brokers began downgrading their profit estimates for the big dollar earners. The FT-SE 100 index, up almost 20 points at one stage, saw its lead reduced to just 8.7 at 4,087.5 by the close. The total number of shares traded reached 900 million.

The drugs sector bore the brunt of the downgradings as NatWest Securities, the broker, took out its red pencil. It is believed to have reduced its numbers for **Glaxo Wellcome**, down 15½p at 897½p, and **Zeneca**, 12½p lower at £16.31.

More downgradings are expected within the next few days as the pound gains ground against its major rivals.

The profit-takers wasted little time in moving in on **Dixons** after the group unveiled half-year figures and a trading update. The 53 per cent rise in first-half profits was followed with a 20 per cent leap in sales during the first eight weeks of the second half covering the run-up to Christmas. The new year sales had seen strong demand for white goods. The shares finished 28p down at 511p with brokers also worried about the impact of tax changes on extended warranties.

JJB Sports, unchanged at 295p, still sees sales well ahead of last year. During the 48 weeks to December 23 they soared by 44 per cent. Margins have been maintained, but the closure of three outlets in Spain will cost £400,000.

Argos, reporting tomorrow, slipped 3½p to 727½p along with **Sears**, 2½p easier at 91½p. **W H Smith** also dipped 2½p to 465½p after finalising the disposal of Niceday, its business supplies arm, to Guilbert, the French stationery office supplier.

There was further volatility in high-flying **Lanica Trust**, where the price touched £14 before bouncing back to close just 25p lower at £18. The speculators are still talking about a possible deal involving its mail order interests. **Wickes** again lost ground with the price falling another 20½p to 176p.

A profits warning left **Capital Corporation**, the casino owner, 5p down at 153p. Pre-tax profits for the full year are likely to fall well short of the £10 million to £11 million being forecast by brokers. The company says the dividend will be pegged at 8.1p and it blamed the absence of big spending gamblers during the last quarter and the start-up costs of its new Colony Club.

TC, the nursing homes group, was also hit by a profits warning, leaving the price down 25p at 114½p. It was the subject of a merger between Court Cavendish and Takare, and says that profits in 1996 will fall short of forecast.

A buy recommendation from Merrill Lynch, the broker, lifted **SIG** 10p to 263p. Merrill has upgraded its year-end forecast for the builders' merchant from £38 million to £40.5 million after the acquisition of four large depots in Germany from the receiver. The broker says buy up to the 290p level.

Elsewhere in the building sector Merrill has also taken a shine to **Wolseley**, urging clients to add to their holdings. It seems that worries about the weakness of the US economy on its opertions have been overdone. The price has retreated from 500p since reporting full-year figures in October. The shares responded with a rise of 6p at 469p.

There are signs that confidence is slowly returning at Canadian Pizza which saw its shares drop sharply a couple of years ago after several profit warnings. Yesterday the price stood out with a rise of 8p at 92½p after a put through of 250,000 shares, 1½ per cent of the company, at a sizeable premium to the ruling price.

One company benefiting from the National Lottery is **M J Gleeson**, the construction group. Dermot Gleeson, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that Budget cutbacks in spending on roads and social housing were disappointing. But the industry had started to benefit from projects financed by the lottery. Gleeson was unmoved at 860p.

Cranswick's shares rose 7½p as Bernard Hoggarth, left, and Martin Davey introduced their Black Sheep Ale Sausages

Cranswick, the food processor, enjoyed a sizzling performance with the price racing up 7½p to a new high of 215p. The group is led by Martin Davey, chief executive, with Bernard Hoggarth as marketing director. They have launched a new line, Black Sheep Ale Sausages, which already seem to be going down well with investors.

Clyde held steady at 117p as Gulf Canada attacked the group's defence document, claiming that the sums do not add up. Gulf says Clyde's valuation was based on historic cash flow multiples which were irrelevant. Gulf's offer values Clyde at £472 million.

Headlam, the fast growing carpet distribution specialist, continues to go from strength to strength with the price adding 15p at 313½p as the market reflected on recent acquisitions. In 1991 the company was valued at just £5 million but now boasts a price tag of £160 million.

Also hitting new heights was **Waterfall**, the snooker and pool leisure group, where the price firmed 2p to a new peak of 58p. Martin Callan, chief executive, last week snapped up a further 111,000 shares.

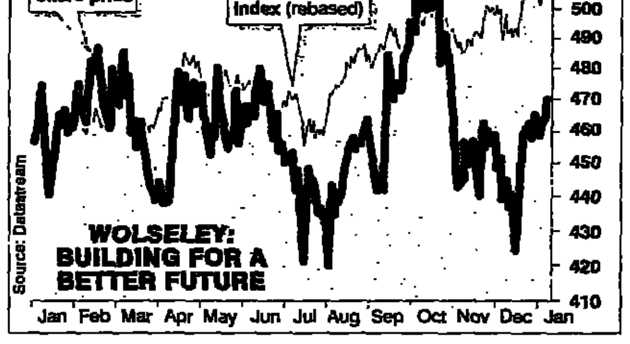
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A positive performance overnight by US Treasury bonds enabled London to score modest gains in thin trading. But gilts still underperformed German bunds with investors keeping a low profile ahead of tomorrow's US employment numbers.

The March series of the long gilt rose five ticks to £108 7/16 as turnover receded to a mere 30,000 contracts.

There was a further steepening of the yield curve as the short end of the market outperformed longer-dated issues.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £5/32 better at £102 15/32, while at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was three ticks firmer at £101 9/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Trading was volatile as the market tried to discount comments from the chairman of the New York Federal Reserve that shares were fully valued. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 19.24 points lower at 6,581.42.



Source: Datastream

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6561.42 (-19.34)
S&P Composite	753.42 (+0.19)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18680.38 (-215.81)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	13454.93 (+34.77)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	652.34 (+4.05)
Sydney:	
AO	2415.0 (+14.3)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2906.34 (+20.21)
Singapore:	
Straits	2243.26 (-3.33)
Brussels:	
General	10612.71 (+59.51)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2331.62 (+29.93)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	855.60 (+6.80)
London:	
FT 30	2797.9 (+6.5)
FT 100	4087.5 (+8.7)
FTSE Mid 250	4532.3 (+10.8)
FTSE 350	2035.7 (+4.5)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1929.54 (+17.78)
FT All-Share	2009.44 (+5.29)
FT Non Financials	2081.74 (+1.93)
FT Fixed Interest	115.53 (+0.04)
FT Govt Secs	93.51 (+0.19)
Bargains	39001
SEAQ Volume	901.0m
US$	1.6881 (-0.0077)
German Mark	2.6539 (+0.0054)
Exchange Index	96.1 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3623
£:SDR	1.1800
RPI	153.9 Nov (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.7 Nov (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aquarius	174½	+ 2
BZW Endowment Red 53		...
Cadcentre	278½	+ 1
Colt Telecom (275)	301	+ 3
Crown Leisure	80½	...
Epicore Network	55	...
Fountain Forestry	89½	...
GB Railways	252½	+ 10
Hardy Underwrtg	175	...
Highams Systems	160	...
Linden	160½	...
Netcall	48½	...
On-Line	77½	...
Oxford Biomedica	54½	- 5
Parkwood Holdings	74½	...
Pilat Tech	59½	...
SDX Business Sys	220½	+ 14
Sanctuary Music (65)	64½	- 1
Scot Highland Htls	147½	+ 2
Sunderland	717½	...
Sutton Harbour	130	- 1
Wst Bromwich Alb	£200	...
Xenova	220	+ 10
Yeoman Group	157½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Compel Gp n/p (160)	4½	...
Fisher J n/p (120)	25	...
Pressac Hldgs n/p	53	+ 10½
Prism Rail n/p (330)	127	...
RPC n/p (142)	3	...
Shaftesbury n/p (137)	21	+ 1
Wickes n/p (150)	24½	- 22

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Br Borneo	938p (+85½p)
Telspec	247½p (+20p)
MAID	189½p (+14p)
SDX Bus Sys	220½p (+14p)
Headlam	313½p (+15p)
Hardy Oil	315p (+15p)
Chrysalis	547½p (+25p)
Sun Life & Prov	274p (+11p)
FALLS:	
Biocomps Intl	885p (-65p)
Huntigh Tech	184p (-12½p)
Dixons	511p (-27p)
Therp Anti Inc	320p (-16p)
Hamleys	380p (-15½p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Looking down the barrel

HOW do you value an oil exploration company? The bid battle between Clyde Petroleum and Gulf Canada, the predator, has become an argument about valuation methodologies. The former wants investors to use multiples of its cash flow: these make Clyde look relatively cheap. However, Gulf points out that on any measure of Clyde's net asset value (estimates range from 75pto 84p), its bid of 105p per share offers a handsome premium.

Cash-flow multiples, used widely in America, offer the comfort of valuing a flow of income rather than putting a price on oil reserves that are still in the ground. However, a valuation must look forward if it is to be of any use to an investor, and a net asset value is merely a store of future cash flows.

In that sense, bidder and target are talking about the same thing, using different language. But a row about whether Clyde Petroleum's glass is half full or half empty is not as futile as it sounds. Valuing large diversified oil companies on their predictable cash flows is easy, but exploration companies have a life cycle. In the early years, when most of their assets are in the ground, cash flow is meagre and multiples should be high. As production builds up, multiples decline until the next big discovery.

At 117p, Clyde is priced at five times its estimated 1996 cash flow. The Canadian bidder criticises Clyde for lack of exploration potential. However, Gulf is not chasing Clyde for hidden barrels but for its cash flow. Clyde has built up production with clever deals and Gulf will need to raise its bid by at least 10p to secure the prize.

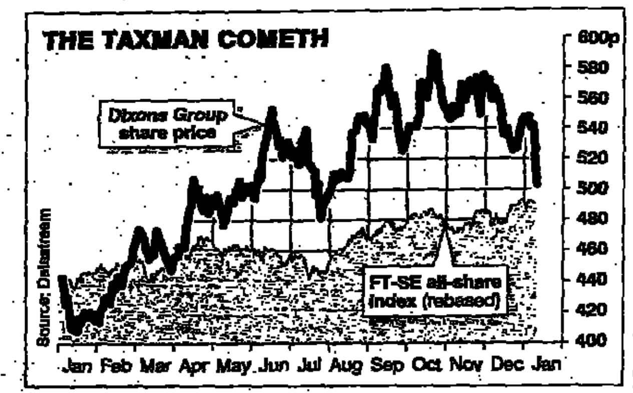
Dixons

DIXONS has come clean on the money it makes from extended warranties. After years of tip-toeing round the issue, it revealed yesterday that warranties account for 8.5 per cent of sales, around 15 per cent of gross profits and 10 per cent of pre-tax profits. This is lower than some estimates but still a lot of money.

The arrival of *glasnost* at Dixons comes in the wake of its discovery that changes to the rules on taxing insurance will affect the extended warranties it offers to customers in its shops. This means that profits could suffer a nasty blow. Naturally the company has no intention of absorbing all of the pain. So, later this year, shoppers can expect to find not only warranty prices rising, but also the price of some products.

The tax will affect the whole of the electrical retailing sector. Companies will have to decide whether to absorb the cost in the short term in an effort to gain some market share. Alternatively, retailers can pass on the cost by raising prices and thus preserving their profit margins. The tax will hit independents hard — small firms may be unable to absorb the cost — so the big chains may profit as the weak fall by the wayside.

Investors took the opportunity to cash in some profits yesterday and the shares could fall further. It will be some months before Dixons reveals its strategy and only then will the market get a perspective on 1997-98 profits.



Source: Datastream

United Biscuits

UNITED BISCUITS has gone a small way towards making amends for a decade of underperformance. The crumbs offered are a series of foreign disposals and, together with the sale of Ross vegetables in December, they represent an attempt to tidy up the company's sprawling interests. Writing off the goodwill will play havoc with this year's balance sheet but the City rewarded UB yesterday for a move in the right direction, with a token fillip to the shares.

The feeling remains that United is doing too little, too late to arrest years of decline. As a result of its exit from underperforming foreign markets, United Biscuits is more reliant on the UK, which now contributes around 70 per cent of total earnings. Yet its record is hardly inspiring, with rivals such as Walkers, owned by Pepsico, stealing the lion's share of the snack market.

A bid, which is rumoured every six months or so, remains the only reason to buy the shares. United sits on a forward multiple of around 15 times earnings, but such a valuation is only attractive if you believe the bid rumours are more than tittle-tattle.

TC Group

BEING Top Cat in the nursing home sector is no big deal and yesterday TC Group proved it to the satisfaction of any doubter. Back in September, when Court Cavendish decided to link its fortunes to the stumbling Takare group, the notion was that more would be made of the combined assets of £260 million. The trouble is that half of the group is still dependent on local authorities who cannot or will not pay for beds. As a result TC Group is struggling to fill its new accommodation and the vacancies will lop £5 million from current year profits. The company is vaguely hopeful that a different government might make more money available but a reliance on New Labour compassion for the elderly is surely clutching at straws.

The trouble with TC Group is that it wants to be a growth stock when it should be a highly geared and high-yielding investment company. Implicit in its decision not to build more homes is a recognition that growth is over. But TC Group is not offering much income as a consolation and gearing is likely to fall rather than increase.

TC Group must change its strategy from earnings driven builder to investor. The rental income from nursing homes is secure, backed either by local authorities or a widow's pension. Borrowing against that revenue should be easy and cheap, allowing TC Group to buy more homes. That offers scope for expansion and a higher dividend.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	879-878	May	970 SLR
May	901-900	Jul	979-975
Jul	918 SLR	Sep	995 SLR
Sep	935 SLR	Dec	1010-1000
Dec	947-946		
Mar	958 BID		Volume: 7150

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1339-1322	Sep	1275-1273
Mar	1303-1302	Nov	1270-1270
May	1271-1270	Jan	1275-1265
Jul	1277-1275		Volume: 7603

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	304.1-03.1
Spot: 313.0		Dec	306.1-04.1
Mar	308.4-06.1	Mar	306.0-05.1
May	307.4-06.8	May	309.0-07.1
Aug	307.1-01.1		Volume: 1024

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 7

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	91.14	129.08	104.34
(+/-)	-10.67	-4.50	+3.12
Eng/Wales:	91.02	129.09	107.27
(+/-)	-10.74	+3.93	+2.11
(%)	+136.1	+32.0	+49.0
Scotland:	92.56	140.76	111.93
(+/-)	unq	+6.34	-1.27
(%)		+121.0	—

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	24.65	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Feb)	24.45	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Mar)	23.90	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	26.30	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	25.50	-0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	222 (-1)	224 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	232 (-2)	233 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	117 (n/c)	119 (n/c)
Naphtha	231 (+1)	234 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	230.25-30.50	Apr	206.50-06.75
Feb	226.00-26.25	May	198.75-99.00
Mar	216.25-16.50		Vol: 16535

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	24.40-24.43	May	22.68-22.70
Mar	23.86-23.88	Jun	22.09-22.12
Apr	23.28-23.30		Vol: 27542

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	92.00	Jan	92.00
Mar	94.50	Mar	93.90
May	96.40	May	95.10
Jul	96.00	Sep	92.45
Sep	92.50	Nov	94.30
Volume: 432		Volume: 135	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	53.0
Apr	64.5	62.0
May	unq	66.0
		Volume: 25

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Feb 78.75-79.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 97	1490	1465	1480
Feb 97	1447	1430	1447
Mar 97	1460	1450	1460
Apr 97	1490	1470	1490
Vol: 270 lots		Open interest: 3497	

Index: 1510 -1

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2341.0-2342.0	3mth: 2242.0-2243.0	Vol: 1744225
Lead ($/tonne)	690.0-690.0	707.0-698.0	129225
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1047.0-1047.5	1070.0-1071.0	401800
Tin ($/tonne)	5775.0-5780.0	5835.0-5840.0	16905
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1545.0-1546.0	1577.0-1577.5	1420275
Nickel ($/tonne)	7060.0-7065.0	7165.0-7170.0	171908

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom	420	10	27	33	2	11	30
(*429)	460	0	9	15	32	35	44
ASDA	120	4	8	11	1	4	7
(*120)	130	0	4	6	7	10	12
Boots	600	24	42	52	1	10	20
(*623½)	650	0	16	25	27	34	45
Br Airways	550	50	64	71	0	7	14
(*599½)	600	7	31	40	7	23	32
BP	650	15	51	71	0	12	18
(*664)	700	5	32	42	10	32	39
Br Steel	140	14	19	21	0	1	6
(*154)	160	1	6	10	8	9	16
C & W	460	17	35	41	1	13	22
(*475)	500	1	16	25	25	34	42
CU	650	29	50	60	2	29	37
(*677)	700	4	26	37	25	50	64
ICI	750	19	38	47	3	26	33
(*760)	800	0	15	26	34	57	63
Land Sec	750	24	43	52	1	9	20
(*773)	800	1	16	24	27	32	47
M & S	460	24	37	47	0	6	12
(*483)	500	1	19	21	17	24	32
Nat West	700	23	41	54	2	28	37
(*721½)	750	0	17	32	29	59	66
Safeway plc	390	10	26	37	2	12	21
(*399)	420	0	13	19	22	29	39
Sainsbury	360	29	38	45	0	4	9
(*389)	390	3	18	25	4	13	22
Shell	1050	11	36	50	8	46	40
(*1061½)	1090	0	19	26	44	68	76
SmKl Bch	750	36	60	76	2	21	29
(*784)	800	5	33	49	20	44	52
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1600	38	90	125	6	55	75
(*1631)	1700	1	43	76	69	111	126
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
BAT Ind	460	27	41	47	1	14	27
(*485½)	500	3	19	27	17	40	49
Vodafone	240	13	23	26	0	6	11
(*253)	260	1	12	18	8	15	20
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	30	41	49	2	9	13
(*444½)	460	6	19	27	19	26	31
Ladbroke	220	13	19	24	2	7	10
(*231)	240	3	9	14	11	18	20
Utd Bisc	200	14	19	22	3	8	11
(*209½)	220	4	9	13	13	20	22

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	30	42	51	0	3	12
(*490)	500	2	16	27	11	21	28
Thames W	600	11	33	42	2	15	25
(*606½)	650	0	12	20	43	49	66
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BTR	240	22	29	31	1	7	9
(*259)	260	9	14	20	7	15	18
Br Aero	1200	67	91	115	13	34	41
(*1248½)	1250	36	63	88	32	55	64
Br Telecm	390	14	25	32	7	13	25
(*394½)	420	3	11	19	26	30	44
Cadbury	460	41	45	51	1	7	12
(*497)	500	13	19	29	12	24	29
Guinness	420	21	28	33	4	15	19
(*432)	460	4	10	15	27	40	43
GEC	390	15	25	33	5	13	20
(*397)	420	3	12	18	24	29	36
Hanson	119	8	—	—	2	—	—
(*124½)	130	1	—	—	12	—	—
LASMO	220	19	26	34	3	7	9
(*234)	240	9	16	23	12	16	17
LucasVarity	220	14	20	25	4	9	13
(*225)	240	4	11	16	14	20	24
Pilkingtn	140	15	20	22	0	3	5
(*157½)	160	4	9	11	8	11	14
Prudential	500	17	25	33	13	25	32
(*510)	550	3	9	16	50	62	65
Redland	330	22	29	31	3	12	16
(*344½)	360	7	13	16	20	30	33
R-Royce	240	17	24	29	4	9	12
(*252)	260	6	13	19	13	19	22
Tesco	330	21	29	33	3	11	15
(*345)	360	5	13	18	18	27	31
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4087)

	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150	4200
Calls						
Jan	137	89	47	14	4	1
Feb	171	128	91	61	35	19
Mar	177	142	108	80	56	39
Apr	191	161	129	101	77	56
Jun	—	205	—	146	—	92
Puts						
Jan	4	9	19	41	83	133
Feb	22	33	49	70	99	135
Mar	43	57	74	97	122	154
Apr	59	76	97	110	141	172
Jun	—	102	—	143	—	197

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Abbey Nat	750	34	52	65	34	44	51
(*758)	800	17	31	39	67	75	81
Amstrad	240	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	260	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1000	54	71	93	32	39	50
(*1027)	1050	28	47	59	61	66	77
Natl Pwr	450	35	—	—	12	—	—
(*460)	500	11	19	22	48	55	58
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo W	900	13	47	60	10	41	50
(*897½)	950	1	22	40	49	72	80
HSBC	1300	12	75	100	7	55	79
(*1323½)	1350	2	50	92	32	83	100
Reuter	700	22	44	61	3	22	31
(*719½)	750	1	25	37	21	49	57
Royal & Sun	420	14	29	—	2	19	—
(*440)	460	0	—	—	25	—	—
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Blue Circle	360	22	30	39	7	12	16
(*376½)	390	7	14	21	17	29	32
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Kingfisher	600	47	54	66	4	16	22
(*636½)	650	15	29	39	22	39	45
	Series	Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Br Gas	220	13	21	—	9	15	—
(*221½)	240	5	4	—	21	27	—
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Dixons	500	30	44	51	15	23	31
(*511)	550	8	22	29	45	51	56
EMI Group	1350	57	93	112	39	54	70
(*1351½)	1400	34	70	90	67	81	97
Tarmac	90	9	11	14	2	4	4
(*96)	100	5	6	10	6	10	10
Hillsdwn	180	16	19	16	2	7	8
(*192)	200	4	7	9	11	18	19
Lonrho	120	11	14	16	3	5	7
(*128)	130	6	9	11	8	10	12
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	250	17	24	29	7	10	16
(*273)	280	7	14	18	17	20	26
Lloyds TSB	420	33	42	46	10	14	21
(*444)	460	11	21	27	22	39	42
Sun Pac	320	25	—	—	4	—	—
(*347)	353	9	—	—	15	—	—
Unilever	1350	70	83	102	13	31	38
(*1392)	1400	38	55	72	31	54	61

January 8, 1997 Tot: 51117 Call: 23249
Put: 27868 FTSE Calls 4792 Put: 6550
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 99651	Mar 97	4094.0	4106.0	4075.0	4086.0	10665
	Jun 97				4108.0	0
FTSE 250 Previous open interest: 5072	Mar 97				4611.0	0
	Jun 97					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 391475	Mar 97	93.35	93.38	93.34	93.37	17367
	Jun 97	93.05	93.08	93.04	93.07	16191
	Sep 97	92.82	92.86	92.81	92.84	11426
Three Mth Euro Yen	Jun 97	99.41	99.41	99.41	99.41	154
	Sep 97	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	286
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 993878	Mar 97	96.89	96.91	96.88	96.90	37475
	Jun 97	96.84	96.89	96.83	96.87	39575
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 133789	Mar 97	108-13	108-19	108-11	108-14	32184
	Jun 97	107-27	107-27	107-27	107-26	76
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 97	124.81	124.84	124.70	124.83	1202
	Jun 97	123.37	123.39	123.29	123.39	95
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 206743	Mar 97	99.66	99.94	99.66	99.84	156300
	Jun 97	98.84	99.00	98.84	98.92	582
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 27782	Mar 97	95.94	95.96	95.94	95.95	651
	Jun 97	95.96	95.97	95.96	95.96	252
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 79648	Mar 97	98.11	98.20	98.11	98.17	6441
	Jun 97	98.03	98.09	98.02	98.08	3336
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 90585	Mar 97	127.88	128.20	127.75	128.04	35807
	Jun 97	127.47	127.60	127.47	127.64	612

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 5¾ Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth: 6⅛ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-5⅞	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7-6⅞
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7-6⅞
Overnight: open 6 , close 6⅛ .					
Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅞
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅞-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.38	n/a	5.43	5.53	5.78
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5½-5⅜	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1⅞-1⅞	1⅞-1⅞	1⅞-1⅞	1⅞-1⅞	2-1
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $357.30-357.60 Close: $355.50-356.00 High: $358.40-358.90
Low: $354.00-354.50 AM: $355.80 PM: $356.60

Krugerrand: $354.50-357.50 (£210.00-212.00)

Platinum: $358.50 (£212.50) Silver: $4.65 (£2.755) Palladium: $120.00 (£71.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for January 8	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.9759-2.9824	2.9758-2.9780	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Brussels	54.637-54.770	54.637-54.727	17-12pr	49-42pr
Copenhagen	10.112-10.139	10.116-10.123	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Dublin	1.0146-1.0178	1.0149-1.0164	5-1pr	14-8pr
Frankfurt	2.6509-2.6590	2.6517-2.6540	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2pr
Lisbon	265.21-266.32	265.47-265.75	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-⅛ds
Madrid	222.95-223.50	222.98-223.16	1-9ds	2-20ds
Milan	2597.1-2607.5	2597.1-2599.9	23-39ds	43-66ds
Montreal	2.2827-2.2946	2.2873-2.2891	0.66-0.61pr	1.27-1.19pr
New York	1.6870-1.6940	1.6879-1.6886	0.123-0.102pr	0.388-0.357pr
Oslo	10.940-10.978	10.940-10.949	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Paris	8.9540-8.9750	8.9619-8.9682	2⅛-2⅛pr	6⅛-6⅛pr
Stockholm	11.741-11.811	11.741-11.761	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	195.06-195.95	195.30-195.52	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	18.651-18.696	18.655-18.672	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.2936-2.2970	2.2939-2.2962	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel

Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2817-1.2825
Austria	11.06-11.07
Belgium (Com)	32.39-32.42
Canada	1.3550-1.3555
Denmark	5.9965-5.9985
France	5.3130-5.3150
Germany	1.5721-1.5726
Hong Kong	7.7392-7.7402
Ireland	1.6606-1.6616
Italy	1539.8-1540.3
Japan	115.76-115.86
Malaysia	2.4880-2.4890
Netherlands	1.7643-1.7648
Norway	6.5043-6.5063
Portugal	157.29-157.39
Singapore	1.4056-1.4063
Spain	132.18-132.28
Sweden	6.9565-6.9675
Switzerland	1.3595-1.3605

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6862-1.6889
Australia dollar	2.1616-2.1637
Bahrain dinar	0.633-0.645
Brazil real*	1.7614-1.7659
China yuan	13.898-14.198
Cyprus pound	0.792-0.802
Finland markka	7.8925-8.0085
Greece drachma	414.0-421.0
Hong Kong dollar	13.0522-13.0593
India rupee	60.36-61.32
Indonesia rupiah	3972.0-4040.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.503-0.513
Malaysia ringgit	4.1960-4.1994
New Zealand dollar	2.3865-2.3889
Pakistan rupee	67.45 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.110-6.234
Singapore dollar	2.3702-2.3726
S Africa rand (com)	7.874-7.976
U A E dirham	6.1625-6.2865

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	732	Lloyds TSB	11,700
ASDA Gp	22,100	LucasVarity	3,400
Abbey Ntl	3,200	Marks Spr	8,100
Allied Dom	4,600	Mercury Asset	409
Argos	307	NatWst Bk	5,700
AB Foods	1,900	Nat Grid	10,700
BAA	1,900	Nat Power	6,300
BAT Inds	5,200	Next	1,200
BOC	687	Orange	3,400
BP	4,800	P & O	2,700
BSkyB	1,100	Pearson	1,300
BTR	11,800	PowerGen	2,800
BT	14,800	Prudential	2,200
Bk of Scot	1,800	RMC	638
Barclays	1,600	RTZ	1,700
Bass	1,400	Railtrack	2,000
Blue Circle	6,400	Rank Group	3,700
Boots	1,400	Reckitt Col	431
BAe	1,200	Redland	843
BA	2,500	Reed Intl	1,500
Brit Gas	9,800	Rentokil Inl	2,000
Brit Steel	16,900	Reuters	5,400
Burmah Cstl	300	Rolls Royce	4,600
Burton	6,200	Royal & Sun	2,000
Cable Wire	1,500	Royal Bk Sct	3,100
Cadbury	4,100	Safeway	2,300
Carlton Cms	487	Sainsbury	4,400
Cm Union	521	Schroders	275
Dixons	7,900	Scot & New	2,400
EMI	459	Scot Power	3,400
Enterpr Oil	4,100	Svrn Trent	1,300
GKN	549	Shell Trans	2,300
GRE	766	Siebe	1,500
GUS	1,300	SmKl Bch	5,500
Gen Acc	2,900	Smith Nph	280
Gen Elec	4,900	Smiths Inds	401
Glaxo Well	9,800	Std Chartd	1,200
Granada	3,200	TI Gp	1,600
Grand Met	4,100	Tate & Lyle	933
Guinness	5,000	Tesco	2,700
HSBC	1,700	Thames W	337
Hanson	17,200	Tomkins	7,400
Hays	2,000	Unilever	1,500
ICI	1,800	Utd Utilities	2,300
Imp Tob	560	Utd News	1,000
Kingfisher	2,600	Vodafone	6,900
LASMO	2,900	Whitbread	2,200
Ladbroke	10,100	Wllms Hld	963
Land Secs	2,000	Wolseley	2,100
Legal & Gn	5,500	Zeneca	1,000

WALL STREET

	Jan 8 midday	Jan 7 close
AMP Inc	40	39
AMR Corp	88	87
ASA	34	34
AT & T	38	39
Abbott Labs	52	52
Advanced Micro	29	29
Aetna Life	78	78
Ahmanson (HF)	33	33
Air Prod & Chem	69	69
AirTouch Comm	24	24
Alberto-Culver B	49	49
Albertson's	36	36
Alcan Alumnm	35	35
Alco Standard	40	42
Allied Signal	68	69
Alum Co of Am	67	66
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	59	59
Amer Brands	49	49
Amer El Power	41	41
Amer Express	58	57
Amer Genl Corp	41	41
Amer Home Pr	60	60
Amer Intl	110	109
Amer Stores	41	41
Amer Standard	40	40
Ameritech	59	59
Amoco	83	83
Anheuser-Busch	41	41
Apple Computer	17	17
Archer Daniels	22	22
Armco	4	4
Armstrong Wrld	68	68
Asarco	26	26
Atl Richfield	132	134
Auto Data Pro	43	43
Avery Dennison	35	35
Avon Products	58	57
Baker Hughes	36	36
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	44	43
BankAmerica	100	97
Bank of NY	34	33
Bankers Tr NY	86	85
Barnett Banks	41	40
Bausch & Lomb	35	35
Baxter Intl	43	43
Becton Dickson	45	45
Bell Atlantic	64	65
Bell Industries	22	22
BellSouth	40	40
Black & Decker	31	31
Block (H&R)	29	29
Boeing	106	105
Boise Cascade	33	34
Bristol Myrs Sq	110	108
Browning Ferris	28	28
Brunswick	25	25
Burlington Nthn	86	87
CMS Energy Corp	33	33
CNA Financial	105	104
CPC Intl	78	78
CSX	41	42
Campbell Soup	82	81
Can Pacific	26	26
Carolina Pwr	38	37
Caterpillar	76	75
Central & SW	25	25
Champion Intl	44	45
Chase Manhat	88	85
Chevron Corp	67	65
Chrysler	35	35
Chubb Corp	55	55
Cigna Corp	140	138
Citicorp	103	102
Clorox	98	98
Coastal Corp	50	49
Coca Cola	53	54
Coca Cola Ent	48	48
Colgate-Palmolive	91	91
Columbia Gas	61	61
ColumbiaHCA	41	41
Compaq Comp	73	73
Comp Ass Intl	48	48
Conagra	49	49
Conrail	99	99
Cons Edison	29	29
Cons Nat Gas	54	54
Cooper Inds	42	41
CoreStates	51	51
Corning Inc	43	44
Crown Cork	53	53
Dana Corp	33	33
Dayton Hudson	37	38
Deere	42	42
Delta Air Lines	72	72
Deluxe Corp	32	32
Digital Equip	37	37
Dillard Dept St	30	30
Disney (Walt)	69	69
Dominion Res	38	38
Donelley (RR)	30	32
Dover Corp	49	49
Dow Chemical	81	81
Dow Jones	35	36
Dresser	33	33
Duke Power	46	45
Dun & Bradstreet	24	24
Du Pont	101	100
Eastman Chem	55	55

	Jan 8 midday	Jan 7 close
Eastman Kodak	81	81
Eaton Corp	69	69
Edison Intl	20	20
Elect Data Sys	47	46
Emerson Elec	100	100
Engelhard Corp	20	19
Enron Corp	44	43
Entergy	28	27
Ethyl Corp	9	9
Exxon	100	100
FMC Corp	71	70
FPL Group	45	45
Fannie Mae	38	38
Federal Express	43	43
First Bk Sys	70	69
First Union Rlty	12	12
Fleet Finl Grp	51	49
Fluor Corp	62	61
Ford Motor	34	33
GTE Corp	43	44
Gannett	72	73
Gap Inc Del	30	30
Gencorp	18	17
Gen Dynamics	69	70
Gen Electric	101	100
Gen Mills	64	64
Gen Motors	59	59
Gen Reinsurance	153	153
Gen Signal	43	43
Genuine Parts	44	44
Georgia Pac	75	75
Gillette	79	80
Glaxo Welle ADR	30	30
Goodrich (BF)	39	40
Goodyear Tire	52	51
Grt Atl Pac Tea	31	31
Great Wstn Fin	28	28
Halliburton	64	65
Harcourt General	47	47
Heinz (HJ)	36	35
Hercules	44	43
Hershey Foods	44	44
Hewlett Packard	53	54
Hilton Hotels	26	25
Home Depot	51	51
Homestake Mng	13	13
Honeywell	66	65
Household Intl	90	89
Houston Inds	22	22
Humana	18	19
ITT Corp	41	42
Illinois Tool	81	81
Illinova	27	27
INCO	32	32
Ingersoll Rand	43	43
Inland Steel	20	20
Intel Corp	146	143
IBM	162	163
Intl Flav & Fr	44	45
Intl Paper	41	42
James River Va	34	34
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	51	50
Kellogg	65	65
Kerr-McGee	72	72
Kimberly-Clark	97	97
Kmart	10	10
Knight-Ridder	38	38
Lilly (Eli)	75	76
Limited Inc	18	18
Lincoln Nat	52	52
Litton	46	46
Liz Claiborne	40	40
Lockheed Martin	91	92
Louisiana Pac	21	21
MCI Comms	32	33
Manpower Inc	32	33
Marriott Int	55	55
Marsh & McLen	109	108
Masco Corp	35	36
May Dept St	49	49
Maytag Corp	20	20
McDonalds	43	44
McDonnell D	65	65
McGraw Hill	47	46
Mead Corp	59	59
Medtronic	69	69
Mellon Bk	72	71
Merck Inc	83	83
Merrill Lynch	81	80
Microsoft	85	88
Minnesota Mine	83	83
Mobil Corp	126	126
Monsanto	40	40
Morgan (JP)	99	98
Motorola Inc	63	61
Natl Semi	25	24
Natl Service Ind	38	38
Navistar Int	9	9
NY Times A	37	37
Newmont Mng	38	39
Niag Mohawk	10	10
Nike B	60	60
NL Industries	11	11
Noram Energy	15	15
Nordstrom	36	36
Norfolk Sthn	87	88
Nthn State Pwr	46	46
Norwest Corp	44	44
Nynex Corp	49	49
Occidental Pet	23	23
Ohio Edison	23	22

	Jan 8 midday	Jan 7 close
Oracle	44	44
Oryx Energy Co	25	24
Overseas Ship	17	17
Owens Corning	45	43
PHH Corp	44	44
PPG Industries	54	55
PNC Bank	38	37
PP&L Res	23	23
Paccar Inc	69	70
Pacificorp	21	21
Pac Enterprises	30	30
Pac Telesis	36	36
Pall Corp	25	25
Parker Hannifin	37	37
Peco Energy	25	25
Penney (JC)	48	49
Pennzoil	58	59
Pepsico	29	29
Pfizer	84	84
Pharm & Upjhn	38	39
Phelps Dodge	71	72
Philip Morris	113	113
Phillips Pet	44	44
Pitney Bowes	55	55
Polaroid	43	44
PriceCostco	25	25
Procter & Gmbl	110	111
Providian	50	51
Pub Serv E & G	28	28
Quaker Oats	38	38
Ralston Purina	73	73
Raychem Corp	82	82
Raytheon	48	49
Reebok Intl	41	41
Reynolds Metals	60	60
Rockwell Intl	61	61
Rohm & Haas	81	80
Royal Dutch	172	173
Rubbermaid	21	22
SBC Comms	51	51
Safeco Corp	38	38
St Paul's Cos	58	58
Salomon Inc	47	47
Sara Lee Corp	37	37
Schering Plough	66	67
Schlumberger	107	107
Seagram	40	40
Sears Roebuck	49	49
Shell Trans	101	101
Sherwin Wlms	54	55
Skyline Corp	25	25
Snap-On-Tools	37	36
Southern Co	22	22
Sprint Corp	38	38
Stanley Works	33	32
Sun Company	24	24
Sun Microsys	27	27
Suntrust	49	49
Supervalu	29	29
Sysco Corp	33	31
TRW Inc	50	49
TCC Inds	1	1
Tandem Comp	13	13
Tandy Corp	41	41
Temple Inland	54	55
Tenneco	44	44
Texaco	101	102
Texas Inst	68	68
Texas Utilities	41	41
Textron	92	92
Time Warner	38	37
Times-Mirror A	50	50
Timken	46	46
Torchmark	51	51
Toys R Us	28	28
Transamerica	79	79
Travelers	45	45
Tribune	77	77
Tyco Inc	53	53
UST Inc	30	30
UAL	61	62
US Inds	32	33
US West Media	18	18
USX Marathon	25	25
Unicom	26	27
Unilever NV	170	171
Union Camp	49	49
Union Carbide	42	42
Union Pacific	60	60
Unisys Corp	6	6
USAIR Group	23	24
USF&G Corp	21	21
US Life	34	34
United Tech	66	66
Unocal Corp	41	42
VF Corp	65	65
WMX Tech	33	33
Wal-Mart Stores	23	23
Warner-Lambert	77	77
Wells Fargo	280	277
Westinghouse El	19	19
Weyerhaeuser	48	48
Whirlpool	48	48
Whitman	22	22
Winn Dixie	32	31
Woolworth	20	20
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	56	56
Xerox	54	54
Yellow Corp	15	15

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Chelsea man backs Arsenal

TALK of treachery from the Momentum Premier Sports Partners. After the announcement that the first investment fund focused exclusively on sport shares grew 66 per cent in the eight months since its launch, I spot some riches in its portfolio. Chelsea FC, Liverpool FC, Manchester City, Manchester United, Adidas, Fila, Nike, and, er, Arsenal debentures? Michael Goldman, managing director and a fanatical Chelsea supporter, tells me that it won't be long before he paints those seats blue.

Squeegee clean

A DOUBLE delight for window cleaners at Rentokil Initial. The business services company is sending two of its best to Las Vegas this month to compete against window cleaners from across the globe at Bailey's Hotel.

Terry Burrows and John McClean, will be defending Burrows's world record. Essex-man Burrows, who has been cleaning windows for two decades, earned his place in the *Guinness Book of Records* last year, when he shattered the fastest time for cleaning three large windows. Meanwhile, they have formed a band called The Squeegees, and are releasing their first CD — *The Squeegee Song*.

"I can't believe it — mother's nursing home has issued a profits warning"

WILEY Michael Foot has escaped the cold weather. The head of the banking supervision division at the Bank of England, is at a conference in the Cayman Islands. Now, what fun would a chess-playing choral singer find there?

Art clocked

SIR Richard Sykes is particularly astute when it comes to pleasing Sir Nicholas Goodison. The deputy chairman and chief executive of Glaxo-Wellcome is hosting a private view at Christie's to celebrate 15 years of acquisition by the National Art Collections Fund, of which Sir Nicholas is chairman. The 150 exhibits in "Treasures of Britain" range from the Becket Casket to the 15th-century Middleham Jewel. Sir Richard says his favourite item is a 1768 clock, made by Thomas Mudge. And what is Sir Nicholas's favourite subject? Clocks.

The black sheep

THE dark past of Cranswick's new sausage is beginning to surface. "The Black Sheep" is made from pork and Black Sheep Ale. The latter comes from Paul Theakston's brewery, named after Theakston, who fell out wih his powerful family and set up on his own. If this doesn't put you off the new banger, maybe news that Cranswick's also deal in tropical fish and bird seed will.

HAPPY Birthday Crawley. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "new town", the high street branch of Lloyds Bank will be serving free champagne. Midland will be offering its customers a chance to try their luck with a cash-tombola. NatWest, Barclays, and Royal Bank, aren't doing anything. Bah humbug.

MORAG PRESTON

How to avoid being an enemy of the rebel without a cause

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

From now until the election, newspapers will be asking serious questions and politicians will be failing to answer them. For instance, the one thing Labour and Conservative parties agree on, so far, is that they could not possibly say whether they intend sterling to be absorbed into a European currency in 1999. Yet the issue is even more important than the maximum size of primary school classes, the decision is about a year off, virtually all the key parameters are now known and the public would need a deal of convincing (or at least threatening) in a referendum.

Such questions still ought to be asked and will be asked. Anxious business folk might get better answers if they pose questions they can answer themselves. Such as, who are the Government's enemies going to be? This is a more vital issue than most remember. For all managers' gripes about Whitehall and the twin slumps, private enterprise business has been the object of good intentions over the past 17 years.

The enemies have, it seems, been independent power centres not accountable to market forces, including trade unions, local government, public service professionals such as teachers and doctors, the Church of England, the BBC and civil servants. In the early days, before its re-education, even the CBI put itself in the firing line.

Being seen as an enemy, however subconsciously, has not been a comfortable experience. In spite of thorough reforms in the mid-1980s, most of the coal-mining industry was sacrificed for the greater good of dishing Arthur Scargill. More recently, British Gas, which had outgunned its old Whitehall masters before privatisation, was destroyed for an idea and a bit of revenge, in spite of being the apotheosis of mass share ownership. If John Major survives, the drive for political correctness will even reach Treasury economic forecasts. Sir Alan Budd, head of the Government Economic Service would doubtless become the properly incentivised, market-remunerated chief executive of Govforc plc.

Labour is, however, likely to have more enemies than the Tories. Many Tory targets, especially trade unions, were enemies for a reason. They were in the way of a radical government's central economic reforms. New Labour is a rebel without a cause. It has no big programme for change and its instincts are muzzled in central policies. It will need enemies. Anyone representing social or economic privilege, anyone indulging in politically incorrect behaviour such as smoking or parking, had better beware, even if they are not doing much harm.

Herbert Asquith biffed the House of Lords so that Lloyd George, his Chancellor, could establish an embryo welfare state. Tony Blair will biff hereditary peers because they are there. Privatised utilities are forewarned. They have been Labour's Aunt Sally since they were privatised. They are set up for a one-off levy that many can still afford but all could have afforded more easily in 1991-95. The more intelligent are trying to avoid it becoming annual.

British Telecom, the pioneer, discovered years ago that a chairman waiving his bonus did his company a good deed. Its later offer to Labour to give Britain an information superhighway, in exchange for removing a bar on new business, showed how to meld good politics with good business, even if the blueprint has since faded.

Water companies, which suffer from being entrenched monopolies with rising prices as well as privatised, are also finally catching on. Yesterday, the nine remaining members of the Water Services Association published a manifesto of visions and promises that might soften the hardest Labour heart. In one sense, there is nothing terribly new in it. The big difference is that the companies have now cheerfully embraced as a compact with the public what they are going to have to do anyway under regulatory or political pressure. That is a key psychological change, from being defensive to being outgoing. If it is wholehearted, it will, over time, subtly change the way the businesses operate and sort their priorities, not just be an herculean public relations exercise. It is an object lesson to other parts of business that are liable to come under unfriendly fire from a Labour government.

Wasteful polluting industries, for instance, will be well advised to stop swimming against the tide. Instead, they should draw up their own measured, costed plans to clean up their act, then go to government to ask for a corresponding programmed tightening in environmental rules to protect them from shabby competitors and, if necessary, to claim tax aid from Whitehall or cash aid from Brussels. If more companies of all kinds adopted environmental audits, and even the social audits pioneered by a few right-on companies, these exercises should become more worthwhile and might well pay for themselves in cash as well as defence against new Labour's vulgar abuse.

The City and its professions know that Labour favours statutory regulation in principle, even if the exact status or structure of regulation is pretty irrelevant to the task of ensuring that markets are clean, customers can have confidence and practitioners are not weighed down by huge costs. There is little point in defending the existing, politically incorrect system, when it is little different from a fully statutory model in practice. In accountancy and some parts of the City, plans have been prepared in private for such a change. The task is to offer Labour a model that achieves what the City wants, not wait for Labour to impose one of the more bureaucratic models on show.

Saving boardroom fat cats from ire is probably impossible, whatever upright new ideas emerge from big business's Hampel committee. But that is only because Labour seems unlikely to tackle the issue by raising top rates of tax. Beneficiaries of such inaction may think it a small price to be enemies of the people.

Carl Mortished on a development likely to eclipse the North Sea

The search for oil turns to Mars

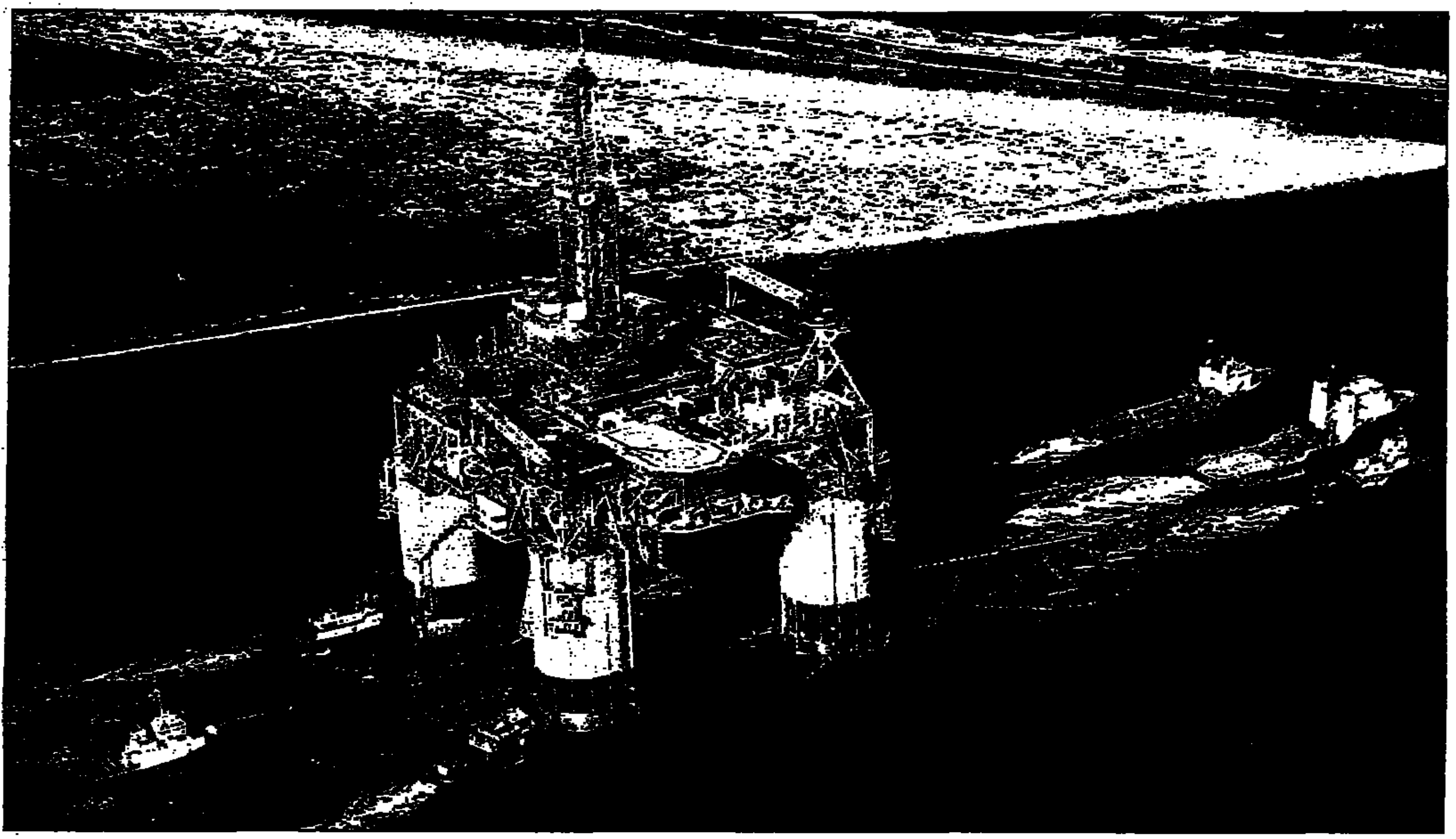
Out in the Gulf of Mexico, the oil industry is enjoying a new boom. Rig workers in California are packing their bags and moving to New Orleans where oil companies are desperate for staff to man offshore platforms and drill rigs. The prospect of huge new finds has attracted companies from the UK and many believe the deep waters of the Gulf could soon eclipse the North Sea as the world's most exciting oil province.

Oil is not news in Louisiana. A helicopter flight from New Orleans into the Gulf of Mexico will tell you why. From this vantage point, the swamps of the Mississippi delta region, criss-crossed with canals, eventually give way to open water. Yet the ocean is not empty; as far as the eye can see it is populated by black objects with legs, like a pond covered in water-crawling insects.

These are the legacy of the Gulf of Mexico's first oil boom. Within miles of the shore, the surface of the sea is covered with oil platforms, mostly small installations in shallow water, designed to tap fields of modest size. This is what the oil industry calls a mature province. The technology is well understood and water depths of 500 feet or so are not challenging. In the shallow water, oil production is dwindling and some fields are in the process of abandonment. Platforms are dismantled and the steel towers towed to designated sites for dumping.

Production in the shallow water of the continental shelf is inexpensive but unexciting. Typical flow rates from wells might be only 1,000 to 2,000 barrels per day. But companies such as Shell, BP and Texaco are fishing in deeper and more dangerous waters, drilling wells that produce 10,000 to 15,000 barrels per day with ease.

Flying further out into the Gulf, the sprinkling of old oil platforms ends and the horizon is empty except for a faint smoke trail from a distant flare. Here at the edge of the continental shelf, in water depths from 1,500 to 10,000 feet, is where the oil industry sees its future.



Shell's Mars tension leg platform being towed to its location in 2,940 feet of water in the Gulf of Mexico where oilfields promise huge rewards

Developing Mars, a 500-million barrel oilfield, cost Shell and its 28 per cent partner, BP, about $1.2 billion, but the oil companies reckon that it is a bargain, having shaved about $200 million from the original budget. Only ten years ago, no one in the industry would have thought it possible to produce oil at such depths, but the technology now exists to drill wells 10,000 feet under the sea and Shell is working on automated sub-sea production systems and spar-shaped floating structures that work in much deeper water than Mars.

The Gulf of Mexico's deep water has turned Shell Oil, the multinational's independent-minded US subsidiary, into the darling of the Anglo-Dutch energy group. It was not always so. Five years ago, Shell Oil was the problem child. As Jere Brew, financial manager at Shell Offshore in New Orleans, puts it: "We were reeling. A lot of analysts were saying we were a drag on Shell." Shell Oil picked up its deep-water Gulf leases in the late 1980s at a time when other US oil majors were charging off to Latin America and the Far East. As a mere subsidiary, Shell Oil had to focus on its home turf and no one then believed oil could be produced economically from such depths.

Shell's first big success was with Auger, a 200-million barrel plus field at a depth of 2,860 feet. Mr Brew admitted to being initially worried about budgets based on well production rates of 7,000 to 8,000 barrels per day. But Auger has beaten all forecasts since it came on stream in April 1994, producing 21,752 barrels per day.

Such achievements and the prospect of big profits have sent rival oil companies flocking to the Gulf and competition for leases has intensified.

Estimates of the total reserves in the deep water province range from eight to 15 billion barrels. Such figures would seem to justify claims that the Gulf of Mexico could quickly seize the crown of the world's most attractive oil province from the North Sea where new discoveries are not keeping pace with production.

According to Alan Gaynor, British Borneo Petroleum's chief executive, the Gulf beats the North Sea on many fronts. "The cost of doing business in the Gulf for the size of the prize is less than anywhere else in the world. Morpeth [field] is about 50 million barrels and the development cost is about $3 to $4 per barrel. That is half the cost and double the opportunity compared with a typical North Sea field."

British Borneo is allocating 85 per cent of its capital expenditure to the Gulf, compared with just 15 per cent to the UK and the reason is tax and development costs. Harsher conditions in the North Sea and the absence of an extensive pipeline network mean higher costs, he suggests. Rig rates are also higher; Mr Gaynor reckons a rig hired by British Borneo for $90,000 per day in the Gulf would costs $140,000 in the North Sea.

The sudden increase in activity is now sending rig rates up sharply in the Gulf. However, Mr Gaynor reckons that a royalty holiday on new leases in deep water and the ability to deduct all costs gives British Borneo an effective initial tax rate of 20 per cent in the Gulf. That compares with the UK's 33 per cent tax rate on new fields.

Leases are awarded for ten years in the Gulf to the highest bidder and there is an absence of diplomatic intrigue, expensive signature bonuses and presents for the oil minister's wife. No one finds it odd that an Anglo-Dutch company and a British company (Shell and BP) should be the top two leaseholders in the deep water, accounting for almost 40 per cent of the leased acreage.

Drilling activity is set to explode and Shell Oil is concerned that rivals are trying to poach its staff in a market where expertise can name its price.

Yet the US arm of the multinational has an impressive schedule of projects aimed at increasing deep-water oil production to equal Shell Oil's total current annual production of some 250 to 300 million barrels per year. Up to nine projects are to be launched over the next three to four years.

But such a massive spending programme should be a relief rather than a headache to the Royal Dutch/Shell group, which has £8 billion of cash to invest. After a grim period of bloodletting, companies such as Shell and BP are looking for fast and safe ways to make a buck. Having scoured more exotic corners of the world, they are again making big money in the country where it all started.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Sharing available work more fairly

From Mr Anthony J. Roberts

Sir, Christine Buckley (December 23) paints a depressing picture of worsening work conditions and shows that the number of those working more than 48 hours per week has risen to 3.9 million.

Many of those in work are forced to do far longer hours than they would wish, often to the detriment of family and social life. However, this trend also has serious implications for the unemployed.

If the total of the long hours worked by these 3.9 million, which I would calculate at the rate of a conservative estimate of say 50 hours per week per person, was worked instead at the rate of only 40 hours per week per person, then over 4.8 million employees would be required — in other words, potentially, a further 9,000,000 employees would be needed.

With a 40-hour week there is surely a chance that the available work would be shared more fairly and equitably among far more people and, thereby, a substantial reduction in unemployment would be achieved.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY J. ROBERTS,
10 Oxen Avenue,
Shoreham-by-Sea,
West Sussex.

Great British public will pay for society conversions

From R.G. Small

Sir, £16 billion is not being distributed by certain building societies ("Investors must act fast to qualify for society bonuses", December 26).

What is happening is that a huge issue of shares is to be made by those societies, after an inordinately long wait in some cases and after a huge amount of investors' and borrowers' money has been spent on City fees, administration, printing, postage and so on. Perhaps as much as £600 million.

It is the Great British public who will pay out the £16 billion to each other in the months and years following demutualisation. Some of the money is already lodged in pension funds and unit trusts awaiting suitable investment opportunities.

Some will come from people who decide that to hold a piece of paper labelled XYZ bank is preferable in the long term to holding cash in banks, building societies or even pockets.

Those people will be matched by existing shareholders who decide that holding cash is better than holding the previously mentioned shares — cash being wanted for spending now (inflationary?) or for other investment opportunities, perhaps overseas.

The market — and only the market — will value these forthcoming issues. And the money can only come from the people, not the societies.

Of course, I do hope that the issues will be carried out with the 100 per cent efficiency we are all expecting.

And could it still happen that one or more of the issues is "pulled" at the last moment?

Yours faithfully,
R.G. SMALL,
113 Heybridge Avenue,
SW16.

Stakeholder Company least likely way of meeting the nation's needs

From the Chairman of Dawson Holdings Plc

Sir, Graham Searjeant (January 2) claims that stakeholders cannot prosper if shareholders languish, but I would have thought the pay and performance packages of boards and executive groups in some service industries, such as PR and advertising, throughout the recent recession show that at least some stakeholder groups can thrive in such circumstances.

As both environmental and supplier stakeholders probably see their main interest as anti-growth and anti-risk, they may also be happy with fairly stagnant corporate performance.

Surely this is the danger of the Inclusive Company, where directors can claim to have satisfied some non-commercial stakeholder group, while failing to reward its shareholders, and picked up an environmental bonus on the way.

The Small Business Working Group of the Tomorrow's Company inquiry came to very different conclusions from that of the other (possibly less hands-on) panels, but its input was, if not suppressed, certainly not referred to in the final report.

If growing businesses meet growth and profit targets and reward staff and shareholders through targeted commercial policies, their higher taxes can be used to meet other desirable social criteria. The Stakeholder Company looks the least likely way of meeting the nation's needs for growing income and jobs imaginable.

Yours faithfully,
PETER M. BROWN,
Chairman,
Dawson Holdings Plc,
9 Savoy Street, WC2.

Explanation of delays at Lloyd's

From the General Manager, Communications, Lloyd's of London

Sir, Sir Guy Millard (Business Letters, January 7) asserts that no explanation has been forthcoming from Lloyd's for the late payment of members' surpluses resulting from completion of the reconstruction and renewal programme. This is not so.

A number of letters have been dispatched to relevant members and their agents regarding payment procedures. The most recent, on December 18, from Lloyd's chief executive officer, Ron Sandler, to all affected members, specifically addressed the matter of delays in payments, explained their background and apologised for their occurrence.

There is no way that such openness can be described in the terms used by Sir Guy.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HILL,
Lloyd's of London,
One Lime Street, EC3.

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Water industry replies to critics

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

THE water industry yesterday tried to launch "a fightback" in response to fierce attacks by customer groups and Labour on its performance, but ran into fresh criticism for hollow promises and not shifting more benefits from shareholders to consumers.

The Water Services Association (WSA), representing the nine largest privatised water companies, said that it had drafted a range of pledges to "make sure our customers have the water they want when they want it". The association said that it had set the goals, which do not have specific targets or deadlines, in *response to criticism of the* industry over the past two years. John Green, chairman, said: "We do acknowledge that we haven't always got it right."

The move comes after the 1995 drought and big dividends from water groups.

The WSA conceded that criticism of leakage was warranted, but set no fresh targets from the band of goals offered a year ago to the Department of the Environment. It said that outperformance by water companies would be *shared between customers* and shareholders, but would not identify how that would be done.

Elizabeth Monck, head of the Thames division of Ofwat's national consumer council, said that the initiative must be seen as a *failure if it did not outline how* benefits would be moved to customers. She said: "Customers are concerned with what goes to shareholders ... Customers want a much clearer message about where the benefits are coming to them."

Frank Dobson, Labour's water spokesman, said: "These first few steps by the water bosses are welcome, but still inadequate. Labour will ensure they deliver much more to local people and the environment."

The WSA said it would have to "wait and see" the effect of a Labour windfall tax.

Eric Reguly on New York's epic battle over glamorous locations

'Queen of Mean' ready to defend property empire

The death of Harry Helmsley is expected to trigger an epic battle for one of America's biggest and most glamorous property empires. At stake is the management and ownership of some of New *York's best-known towers, in*cluding the Empire State building.

Leona Helmsley: accused

The late Harry Helmsley

The fight will pit Leona Helmsley, Harry's widow, against Irving Schneider and Alvin Schwartz, two of Harry's top lieutenants and partners. They were fighting *Leona well before Harry's* death, at the age of 87, last Saturday.

Last year Schneider and Schwartz brought a lawsuit against Leona, accusing her of looting Helmsley-Spear, the property management firm at the centre of the empire. The *two men were apparently wor*ried that they would inherit an insolvent company — Harry had allegedly granted them the right to buy Helmsley-Spear at a bargain price on his death.

Leona promises to be a formidable opponent. She has *detailed knowledge of her* husband's companies — she took control of his affairs after he suffered a stroke in the 1980s — and has a fearsome temper. The "Queen of Mean", as Leona became known during her trial for tax evasion, is out of prison and, by all *accounts, is ready and willing* to stand her ground again.

Harry Helmsley never found fame as a landlord. For most of his career, he was largely unknown outside of property circles even though he had amassed a portfolio that spanned some 50 million square feet, *much of it in New* York City.

In addition to the Empire State building, he was the owner or part-owner of One Penn Plaza, the Lincoln, Graybar and Fisk buildings, the Toy Center, around 50,000 apartments and thousands of hotel rooms.

According to *Everybody's Business*, a corporate guide to America, he never sought publicity, lived in a modest suburban house and was known as a frugal operator. *His obscurity ended with a* bang in 1971 when he divorced his wife of 33 years and married Leona Roberts, a hatter's daughter from Brooklyn. Harry, then in his 60s, suddenly found himself on the party circuit with the mascara-laden, fast-talking property broker at his side.

The couple were the talk of the town and indulged themselves with every conceivable luxury. They moved into a ten-room flat with indoor pool atop the Park Lane Hotel, a Helmsley holding. There was a mansion in Greenwich, Connecticut, a condominium in Palm Beach, Florida, and a private jet.

Leona was put in charge of Helmsley's hotel business. The hotels, which included the Harley (taken after their first names), the Helmsley Carlton House and the St Moritz, earned reputations for impeccable service. They were closely identified with *the domineering Leona*, whose photograph was usually splattered across advertisements for the hotels. By the 1980s, Leona was as much of a celebrity as Donald Trump.

The dream shattered in 1989 when Leona and Harry were *indicted for tax evasion. They* were accused of buying all manner of goodies — among them a $210,000 mahogany table, a $45,000 silver clock and a $210,000 stereo system — and charging them as business expenses.

The press went wild as the *witnesses, many of them em*ployees, were given the opportunity to vent their rage. One called the Helmsley's Greenwich home a "boot camp for servants". The *People* magazine cover story about Leona was headlined: "Greedy, Greedy, Greedy", and another *carried the line "rhymes with* rich" next to her picture.

Harry avoided prosecution because of ill-health, but Leona was given a four-year sentence for ducking taxes. She served 18 months.

Harry was buried on Tuesday in Brooklyn's Woodlawn Cemetery. Messrs Schneider and Schwartz attended and, according to Howard Rubenstein who acted as Harry's spokesman for the past 30 years, they "had a cordial but brief discussion with Leona".

It may be their last. Mr Rubenstein said that lawyers from each side are already assembling.

The Empire State building, one of the prestigious holdings in the Helmsley portfolio

Cinven acquires microbe business

By Paul Durman

CINVEN, the investment capital firm, has bought Unilever's microbe testing business in a deal involving £84.6 million of financing.

Oxoid, the microbiology arm of Unilever's Unipath subsidiary, makes tests based on the century-old method that uses agar jelly, a growth medium for bacteria. Its products are used in hygiene and impurity testing by hospitals, food and drink companies and in the pharmaceuticals industry.

The sale of Oxoid follows Unilever's decision that Unipath should concentrate on its consumer goods interests, which include Clearblue pregnancy testing kits, and Persona, the recently launched electronic contraception device.

Unilever said that sales of Persona, currently available only through Boots, are progressing "extremely well". The device, which costs about £50, gives a computerised reading of the hormones in a woman's ovary, indicating when it is "safe" to have sexual intercourse.

Oxoid became part of Unilever when it took over Brooke Bond Oxo in 1984. It is based at Basingstoke, has about 600 employees, and annual sales of around £60 million. The growing microbiology market is worth an estimated $1.6 billion a year.

Oxoid's management, headed by Mike Smith, its *managing director, will* have a stake of less than 15 per cent in the buyout company. Kevin Wheeler, Cinven's marketing director, said that the company is likely to seek to realise its investment, probably through a flotation, in three or four years.

Cinven provided the bulk of the £40 million of equity finance, with smaller sums contributed by management. The Royal Bank of Scotland has provided a £45 million borrowing facility.

Unilever did not disclose how much it had received for Oxoid.

ACCOUNTANCY

The right board for the job

Anthony Carey outlines the ICA's submission to the Hampel committee on corporate governance

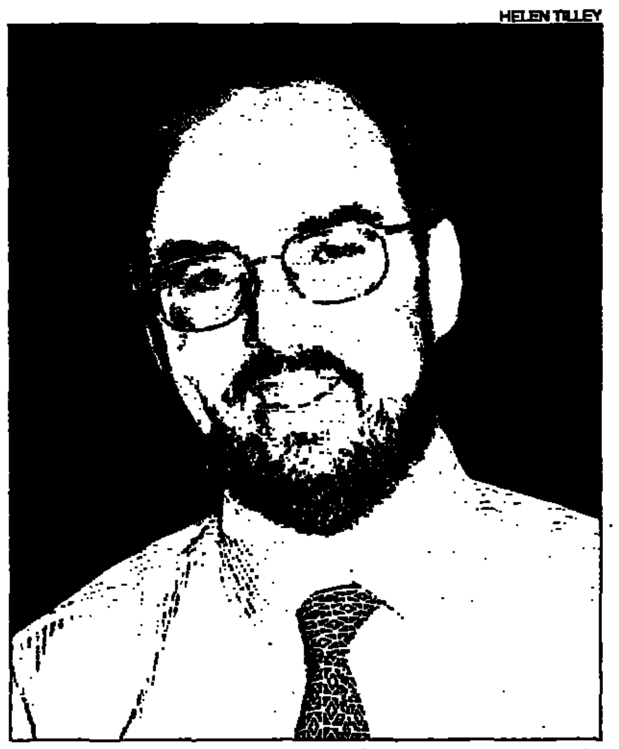
The prime responsibility for effective corporate governance rests with the board of directors of a company. Shareholders and auditors can necessarily play only a secondary role. This robust approach has been adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales in its response to the consultation exercise undertaken by Sir Ronald Hampel's committee on corporate governance.

The institute believes that the emphasis should be on ensuring, as far as possible, that the right board is in place and that companies observe essential corporate governance standards and are seen to do so. The ability to enforce such standards, while hopefully seldom required, is regarded as important. With these safeguards in place, companies should be left to run their businesses and to compete vigorously in the ever tougher global marketplace.

One of the great strengths of the unitary board is the potential it offers for cohesiveness in the governance of a company. It is therefore vital that the board be collectively responsible for the decisions it takes. We must avoid executive directors being seen as having responsibility for promoting competitiveness and non-executive directors for securing accountability. The board as a whole must advance both these objectives simultaneously. Their joint attainment is essential if a company is to enjoy sustainable success.

The construction of a well-balanced board requires that no single individual has unfettered power at the top of the company and that board members, taken together, have the necessary range of skills and attributes to take the company forward. This will require, among other factors, that the board has a sufficient number of high-calibre independent non-executive directors.

In the four years since the publication of the Cadbury report, best practice has evolved in relation to the *splitting of the roles of chair*man and chief executive. More than three quarters of the top 1,550 listed companies no longer combine these positions in one person. Given the different nature of the two functions, with the chairman being responsible for the management *of the board and the chief* executive for running the company, the institute considers the Cadbury code should now be amended to call explicitly *for their respective powers to* be held by separate directors.



HELEN TILLEY

Anthony Carey says there is a need for well-balanced boards

Hampel could usefully examine the implications of chief executives moving up to become chairmen of their companies, a fairly frequent occurrence in recent years. In these circumstances, it will *clearly be difficult for the* chairman to appraise past executive decisions critically.

The provisions in the Cadbury code, requiring com*panies to have three non*-executive directors of whom the majority should be independent, should be streamlined to require them to have at least two independent non-executives. This would help smaller listed companies in particular. To be fully effective, *non-executive directors* should be independent (eg, not former executive directors) and, in this context, audit committees should be wholly made up of independent directors. There may also be merit in selecting non-executive directors from a broader pool than at present. Senior academics and leaders of not-for-profit organisations are possible candidates. Substantial scope exists for increasing the number of overseas directors on the boards of UK companies so that UK plc may take full advantage of global business opportunities.

No relaxation of the present reporting requirements on internal controls and directors' remuneration is proposed. To enhance accountability, the institute is recommending that every director should be subject to re-election at least every three years and it also believes Hampel should consider whether all directors of listed companies should be required to pass a "fit and proper test" similar to that which is already applied within the regulated financial services sector.

Companies should strive for continuous improvement in their corporate governance practices just as they do in all *other aspects of their business*es. Best practice has evolved as a result of the introduction of the Cadbury and Greenbury codes. With properly balanced boards, a strong presence of independent directors, reliable disclosure and sound enforcement, best practice will be able *to continue to develop.*

Anthony Carey is secretary of the corporate governance group of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

The battleground shifts to education

THERE is nothing the accountancy profession likes better than a good squabble. And there are always plenty of reasons to have one. The latest is to do with education and shows how difficult it is for a profession to sustain both its standards and a spirit of competition within a structure that consists of six very different accounting bodies.

The story concerns the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT), which everyone in the profession agrees is one of the shining successes of co-operation among accountants. It provides a route for people to become accounting technicians, people who are working in accounting but who are not necessarily going to take the higher qualifications. It was set up in 1980 by its five sponsoring bodies, the main UK accounting bodies. It has prospered mightily and grown in reputation. It currently has more than 50,000 students and almost 22,000 members. It has filled a niche.

But its roots were those of a previous accounting squabble between the certified accountants and the chartered bodies. In the 1970s the certified accountants ran an organisation called the Institute of Accounting Staff. The English ICA, along with the *management accounting* and public sector accounting bodies, set up a competitor called the Association of Technicians in Finance and Accountancy.

ROBERT BRUCE

The same arguments applied then as they do now — that it was daft to have two accounting bodies *doing the* job when one would suffice. At the same time, the profession, under a Labour Government, was under pressure to be seen to be trying to unify its operations. Edmund Gibbs, one of the most enlightened presidents the certified accountants have ever had, and Eric Sayers, the English ICA president, got together. The two bodies were folded into a new body, the AAT, and it was sponsored by all the professional bodies except for the *Irish, who were supportive but did not join.*

Since then, all has been sweetness and light. The AAT has evolved. Members now qualify through the national vocational qualifications scheme, providing a mix of exam and experience-based tests. It fits well within the current national drive to raise the technical qualifications of the workforce.

But in the background something was niggling away. In the 1970s when the Institute of Accounting Staff was closed the then-secretary of the certified accountants decided to keep it alive as a company, dormant within the accounting body's structure. There was, after all, always the possibility that it might be needed again.

On November 21 last year the certified accountants' council decided in secret that it should set up a competitor qualification to that of the AAT. The secretary informed the AAT's secretary of the decision the day before a press release went out that said: "This development is a logical extension of our core business."

The AAT and the rest of the profession erupted. "Competition is fair," said one senior person at the AAT, "but steam does come out of your ears when it comes from one of your sponsoring bodies."

What rankled most was that the certified accountants' body has, as a sponsor, three of its council members on the AAT's council, including Professor Mike Harvey, immediate past-president. None of those three ever let on that they were about to launch a competing qualification. "It's akin to a corporate boardroom," said a senior member of the AAT. "You can't be on the board of two competing organisations at the same time. It is simply not professional."

And there is also the wrangle over the type of qualification. The AAT's is predominantly experience-based. The certified's qualification will be exam-based. And there is *an overseas market to be* tapped. The certified accountants' body has always been strong overseas. It describes itself as "the world's foremost provider of professional accountancy examinations". There has always been disquiet over this. One senior accountant involved in the original formation of the AAT recalled this week that "all the certified accountants were interested in doing was making money". As John Newman, AAT president, said this week: "In Singapore, the *certified accountants* have 15,000 students and only 500 qualify each year. You are looking at one in 30 getting through. I find that difficult to support."

But however the issue is resolved, *it has* set back any efforts to maintain a framework of co-operation which, ironically, was Professor Harvey's theme when, as president, he spoke at last year's annual dinner for the certified accountants.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Gloves off for post of president

THIS is the week when council members of the English ICA vanish on a jolly. Sorry, this is the week of the council's annual conference where they get together to discuss strategy, *the future, and wider* issues. And one of the wider issues is Graham Ward, onetime heavyweight boxer, but these days a senior Price Waterhouse partner and contender for the English ICA presidency. The week of the council conference is also the week when nominations for this year's elections close. It had been felt that Dame Sheila Masters, KPMG partner, should have been given a clear run to become the institute's first woman president in the landmark year of 2000. But Ward's bid could scupper that. And people are confused about his motives. They are simple. Given the timescale for certain senior posts at Price *Waterhouse, Ward needs his* presidency out of the way before he can try to scale those heights as well.

Frost warning

GIVEN the current weather it is appropriate that the year begins with a Frost warning. David Frost is president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation and, like many, he is *worried about self-assess*ment. In particular, he is worried about pressure on local inspectors of taxes to clear up outstanding appeals much sooner than usual. Keeping to his seasonal theme he points out that "the Inland Revenue has begun the process much earlier than usual this year". Blame it on global warming.

Way with words

ACCOUNTANTS, by tradition, are good at numbers but hopeless at words. But not so one Harvey Freeman who be*came supreme champion* when *Countdown*, the words and numbers quiz programme run by Channel 4, staged a champion-of-champions round. Freeman, an audit manager with KPMG, found that creosoted and lugholes were winning words.

ROBERT BRUCE

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Philips to loosen ties with costly Grundig

By Oliver August

PHILIPS, the troubled Dutch electronics group, is to scale back its ties with Grundig, the German television and stereo maker, in a bid to cut costs.

Grundig's continuing losses have hampered Philips's recovery. Last year, Philips signalled that it would no longer fund the German subsidiary's losses.

Under new arrangements, Philips is to become a "passive shareholder" in Grundig. A sale of its 32 per cent stake had previously been ruled out but is now believed to be a possibility. Philips yesterday said it had started negotiations to unwind its contractual obligations towards the Max Grundig Foundation. Philips had managed the company under an agreement with the foundation.

Meanwhile, Grundig said it was looking for a new parent company and said it would reveal further details of its survival strategy on Friday.

Pieter van der Wal, the Grundig chairman, said: "Grundig is opening itself to new partners. The Grundig board has introduced the needed steps to use the opportunities presented by the changing market for entertainment electronics together with strong partners."

Philips said its decision to divorce itself from Grundig came in response to the globalisation of the electronics market. It is the group's plan to start using a single brand name where possible, particularly in the sound and vision markets.

In America, Philips has already started to implement this policy, with the introduction of the combined brand name Philips-Magnavox.

The group said: "The next step is to implement this policy in Europe with the result that the Grundig brand name is no longer of vital importance to Philips."

Grundig predicted last month that its net loss in 1996 would be DM250 million but said results would improve in 1997. In 1995 Grundig made an operating loss of about DM330 million.

In October Philips said that Grundig was not for sale and that its restructuring programme for the unit was proceeding as planned. In an earlier move to distance itself from the German consumer electronics maker, Philips confirmed in October it would no longer automatically make good Grundig's losses.

Philips said earlier in the year that its 1995 figures included an extraordinary loss of 300 million guilders after consolidating a 270 million guilders provision by Grundig.

Bank in fraud warning

A senior Bank of England director has warned fellow watchdogs that those countries that fail to co-operate in the fight against international fraud and money-laundering face ostracism.

Michael Foot, the Bank's executive director for Supervision and Surveillance, told delegates attending a three-day crime prevention conference in the Cayman Islands that host countries "which do not commit wholeheartedly to putting into effect the spirit of the Supervision of Cross-Border Banking accord, which has been worked out so painstakingly, may quickly find themselves regarded by others as 'beyond the pale'."

Mr Foot said standards of supervision could only be maintained by spending more on resources and staff.

India boom

British investment in India, already worth a cumulative £3 billion, is expected to rise to £5 billion by the year 2000, the Indo-British Partnership, a bilateral business institution, said on the eve of a three-day business conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. John Major is scheduled to attend.

Hunting sale

Hunting, the UK industrial company, has sold Intercontinental Chimie SA, a subsidiary of its oil division, for £8.4 million. The business holds a 50.1 per cent interest in Société Europeène de Stockage, an oil products storage facility in Strasbourg.

Edge disposal

Edge Properties, the specialist retail warehouse property group, is raising £6.8 million through the sale of a substantially prelet development in Cardiff to Save & Prosper.

Michael Weston, front, chairman, with executives James Lapage, left, and Basil Taylor

M&W lifts its dividend

By Richard Foster

M&W, the convenience store operator, achieved a 6 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2.82 million in the year to September 29, in spite of a relatively poor summer and increased competition from big supermarkets. Like-for-like sales rose by 2.89 per cent.

The company, of which James Lapage is finance director, is increasing its final dividend to 2.75p a share, from 2.25p, lifting the total by 14.3 per cent, to 4p. Earnings per share fell slightly, to 10.75p, from 10.89p, reflecting a higher tax charge.

M&W plans to open 15 stores in the current financial year, of which six have already opened. In total, the company had 169 stores trading during the period, eight more than in 1995. As competition from supermarkets grows, facilities in the stores have been increased to include bakeries, photocopying, and electricity and gas payment units.

Basil Taylor, the chief executive of M&W, said: "The improved standard of recent store acquisitions and the increasing maturity of the greenfield sites opened in 1994/1995 have contributed to the substantial improvement in second-half results."

Americans target Olivetti PC group

By Oliver August

OLIVETTI, the Italian electronics group, is being courted by two American investor groups who want to buy its personal computer business.

A deal to rid the group of its PC division, widely seen as a big liability, could be worth around £90 million in cash and debt reduction.

Edward Gottesman, the US financier of the Centenary group, is working on a bid with Gianmario Rossignolo, the Zanussi chairman. Mr Rossignolo was brought in by Mr Gottesman to emphasise that he would not asset-strip the business.

Mr Rossignolo is said to have visited Olivetti's main PC assembly plant in northern Italy's Piemonte region and is expected to begin talks with the industry ministry in Rome this week. It is rumoured that Mr Rossignolo would become president of the PC division while retaining his position within Zanussi.

Gary Klesch, a corporate debt trader and head of Klesch & Co, which is based in London, is also interested. Olivetti shares have risen by 20 per cent since December in anticipation of a bid.

Roberto Colaninno, the chief executive of Olivetti, is expected to announce a decision on the bid before the end of the month. Olivetti was originally planning to sell the loss-making PC business by last month.

Olivetti's profitability recently deteriorated and analysts said that the question is whether the group can maintain competitiveness.

Fixed costs are said to be too high, as are staffing levels. Clients signing new contracts are eager to be assured that Olivetti will still exist in a few years to fulfil those contracts.

This week, at the request of the Italian stock market regulator, Olivetti revealed its net debt at the end of last November stood at 2.9 trillion lire (£1.1 billion), compared with 3 trillion in October.

Alberto Rolla, an analyst with Pasfin, the Milan broker, said: "Even if you strip out L800 billion for what they will get from all the restructuring they have declared, you are left with a total debt burden of about L2 trillion."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

GKN acquires 80% of components maker

GKN is strengthening its car parts business with the purchase of an 80 per cent stake in an Italian propeller shaft manufacturer. Italcardano Universal Giunti, based in Milan, makes propeller shafts and other components for small lorries, tractors and military vehicles. It had sales in 1995 of 64 billion lire (£25 million), half of which were to customers outside Italy.

Italcardano, previously family owned, has been bought by GKN Birfield, which is part of GKN's automotive driveline division. GKN Birfield is itself based in northern Italy, at Brunico. GKN did not disclose its purchase price. GKN's automotive arm has been an important customer of Italcardano for many years. Sarkis Kalyanjian, chief executive of the automotive driveline division, said: "The acquisition represents an excellent opportunity for GKN to enhance sales in an existing core activity and to take advantage of the specialist technology developed by [Italcardano]."

Reuters takes Thai stake

REUTERS, the financial information and trading group, yesterday bought a 49 per cent stake in Bisnews Information Services, a supplier of real-time financial data and news in Thailand, for about £10.6 million. Reuters will take over the management of Bisnews, which it said will substantially increase its market share in one of the fastest growing countries in Asia. Bisnews provides information for the domestic equity, fixed income and corporate markets, and also supplies a Thai-English language database.

Irish jobs cheer

UNEMPLOYMENT in the Republic of Ireland fell in December for the fifth successive month, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Statistics Office. Seasonally adjusted figures for December were down 1,700 on the month to 267,000 and down more than 15,000 on December 1995. The unadjusted figure was up almost 7,000 on the previous month to 270,146. The downward trend in the seasonally adjusted figures has been attributed to more job creation and a widely publicised government clampdown on welfare fraud. Ireland's unemployment rate remains at around 12 per cent.

Bunzl buys US groups

BUNZL, the international paper and plastics group, has acquired Thinking Plastics Inc and its associated company MDX Plastics Inc for up to $4.3 million. The final price may be adjusted downwards according to the value of net assets acquired on completion. The companies, which are based in California, manufacture a range of proprietary industrial plastic parts particularly for the US tubular furniture and equipment market. Bunzl said their product range complemented those of Alliance and Moss, two existing subsidiaries engaged in the supply of caps and plugs.

Holden Hydroman sold

UNITED INDUSTRIES, the UK engineering group, has sold the business and assets of Holden Hydroman, its loss-making automotive plastics business, to a company controlled by Polytec Kunststofftechnick, a group with automotive plastics interests in Austria and Germany. The consideration of £4.7 million was paid in cash on completion and represents about 90 per cent of the net book value of assets at the end of December. The business lost £588,000 on a turnover of £6.3 million in the half year to the end of June.

Rover accelerates with record sales in America

By Our Business Staff

RECORD American purchases helped to drive Rover to its best worldwide vehicle sales year since 1988, it was announced yesterday.

The UK company, owned by BMW, the German car manufacturer, sold more than 506,000 vehicles worldwide in 1996 — a 4 per cent rise on the 1995 total, according to preliminary figures. For the first time, Rover's overseas sales exceeded home purchases, with 53 per cent of vehicles being sold abroad in 1996.

US sales reached record levels and were 15 per cent up on 1995, while German sales increased 50 per cent and mainland European purchases overall rose 10 per cent.

Sales in the UK, first announced on Tuesday, fell 7.6 per cent from 240,007 in 1995 to 221,658 in 1996. Tom Purves, Rover's sales and marketing director, said: "Despite the fact that absolute volumes [in the UK] were slightly down as we moved away from high-volume, low-margin business, the quality and mix of these sales has improved."

Rover attributes the increase in world sales to the success of its new 200 and 400 series models, particularly in the European markets, and to the continuing growth worldwide of Land Rover products, with both the Range Rover and Discovery setting new sales records.

☐ On Tuesday the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said UK car sales rose 4.1 per cent to just over two million in 1996, the highest level since 1989.

Final terms settled on Niceday

W H SMITH has finalised the sale of Niceday, its business stationery arm, to Guilbert, the French stationer, for £131.5 million, some £10.5 million less then the City expected (Fraser Nelson writes).

After eight months of due diligence, W H Smith has agreed to accept only £19.5 million of the £30 million that Guilbert had placed in an escrow account when the sale was first agreed in April. The basic price of £112 million has already been paid.

The two have decided to split the account six months before their original deadline, set to allow time to monitor the progress of Niceday's troubled distribution centre in Andover. Guilbert will take full responsibility for any costs, leaving W H Smith completely free of any liabilities.

W H Smith's shares, which shot to 491p on news of the deal in April, fell 1½p yesterday to 466½p.

UK firms offered shares in 2000 Olympic Games

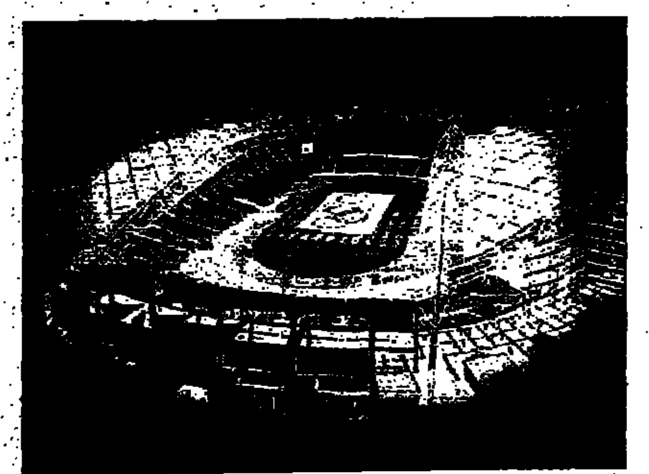
Selling Sydney to corporate Sid

From Rachel Bridge
in Sydney

BRITISH companies operating in Australia are to be given the opportunity to entertain their clients with the ultimate in corporate hospitality. They have been invited to participate in a unique A$460 million (about £230 million) public share offer that comes with a guaranteed seat at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Stadium Australia, the consortium building the main stadium, has extended the offer to corporate investors after an unexpectedly disappointing response from the Australian public, to whom it was originally pitched.

For each investment of A$10,000, a company will receive one of 34,400 Gold packages, entitling it to a guaranteed seat at all Games events held in the Olympic stadium, including the opening and closing ceremonies and all track and field events. Every investor will also receive 1,000 units in an investment trust linked to 1,000 shares in Stadium Australia Management, which will be listed on the Australian Stock Exchange this year.



An artist's impression of the A$615m stadium

The Gold package will also entitle investors to stadium club membership for more than 30 years from 1999, entry at no extra cost to most sporting events staged after the Olympics, and access to an exclusive members' lounge and dining area.

Chris Chapman, chief executive of Stadium Australia, points out, however, that the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games will retain the right to veto those companies whose interests would conflict with the interests of the Olympic sponsors, which include McDonald's, Coca-Cola and Kodak.

Along with the more exclusive Platinum packages, which have already been snapped up in spite of the A$34,000 price, Stadium Australia is hoping that the share offer will raise well over half the estimated A$615 million cost of building the stadium.

The consortium, which includes Multiplex, the Australian construction group, and the Obayashi Corporation, the Japanese contracting company, says the stadium is on target to be completed by June 1999. The deadline for the share offer has been extended to March this year.

A FREE LUGGAGE TAG WITH EVERY ORDER

A TIMES READER OFFER

The Times executive leather collection

Clockwise from left: Conference folder, cheque book holder, travel wallet, wallet, credit card holder and business card holder. Additional items featured in photograph not included.

The Times offers readers its executive leather collection, and with every order you will receive a FREE luggage tag. All items are crafted from premium quality black soft nappa hide.

Conference Folder: with slot to fit an A4 pad, two business card pockets, two pen loops, black suede lining and tab-closure. 316 x 236 x 18mm.

Travel Wallet: detachable carry strap, seven credit card slots, four full length pockets for currency, passports and tickets, a mesh covered identity card pocket and three sided zip closure. 218 x 124 x 27mm.

Wallet: internal coin pocket with fastener, two banknote pockets, four credit card slots, two concealed pockets and secure press-stud closure. 120 x 95 x 16mm.

Cheque Book Holder: full length pocket and cheque book holder slot, a credit card pocket, and a drivers licence pocket. 212 x 94 x 10mm.

Credit Card Holder: six internal credit card slots and two concealed pockets. 118 x 75 x 8mm.

Business Card Holder: pocket for supply of business cards, two credit card slots, and internal lid pocket. 103 x 88 x 16mm.

Luggage Tag: window for address and gilt buckle on attachment belt. 105 x 65 x 2mm.

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Wallet		£29.00	
Cheque Book Holder		£25.00	
Credit Card Holder		£19.00	
Business Card Holder		£19.00	
Luggage Tag		£4.99	
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For AB see Govett (John)

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	692.30	736.50	+ 0.70	2.39
General Inc	577.30	614.80	+ 0.60	2.39
UK Growth Acc	478.60	509.20	+ 0.90	2.53
UK Growth Inc	309.70	329.50	+ 0.50	2.53
Higher Inc Acc	854.70	909.30	+ 3.60	3.89
Higher Inc Inc	455.40	484.50	+ 2.00	3.89
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	212.00	223.90	+ 0.20	5.48
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.83	98.05	+ 0.09	5.48
Nth America	359.90	382.50	+ 3.20	
Europe	361.50	384.60	+ 3.00	0.26
Brit Excell	94.84	100.90	+ 0.10	2.65
Brit Fndmtls Acc	121.40	129.20	+ 0.60	4.42
Brit Fndmtls Inc	81.17	86.36	+ 0.31	4.42
Global Opps	99.26	105.60	+ 0.40	
Balanced Acc	64.39	68.50	+ 0.16	2.49
Balanced Inc	60.12	63.96	+ 0.15	2.49
Japan Acc	38.14	40.58	- 0.54	
Pac Basin Acc	397.50	422.90	+ 3.40	0.83

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.10	139.10†		6.84
High Inc Equity	187.20	200.20†	+ 0.40	4.54
Worldwide Bond	265.40	281.40	- 0.30	4.75
American Growth	388.60	415.40†	+ 2.70	0.32
Asian Pacific	317.60	339.70	+ 3.30	0.41
Assets & Earnings	314.10	335.90	- 1.50	2.81
Euro Capital Acc	188.90	202.00	+ 0.60	0.78
Extra Inc	43.10	45.85†	- 0.01	7.98
General	287.00	305.30	- 1.20	2.86
Global Opps	69.48	73.91	- 0.30	0.54
Japan	93.41	99.90	- 1.60	
Managed Inc	48.28	51.36†	+ 0.01	4.38
Mastertrust	168.10	179.80	- 0.30	1.33
US Emerging Cos	198.30	211.00	+ 0.80	
[illegible]	84.64	90.04	- 0.56	1.97
International	133.70	142.20	+ 0.10	0.51
Dividend & Growth	69.27	73.69†	+ 0.11	4.55
Global Cash & Sec	74.22	79.31	+ 0.06	3.35
Latin America	66.69	70.95	+ 0.46	0.55
Capital Reserve	146.90	146.90		4.77

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2372.00	2489.00		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Inc & Growth	61.06	63.35	+ 0.71	0.15
Emerging Mkts	71.59	74.56	+ 0.62	0.05
European	152.10	158.10	+ 1.00	
Exempt	1096.00	1165.00		1.60
Extra Income #	48.31	50.84†	+ 0.22	6.40
Far East Emg Eco	124.40	130.50	+ 0.60	0.48
Fixed Interest #	25.76	26.79	+ 0.03	8.87
Fund Inv Tst #	152.10	159.50†	+ 0.40	9.63
Japan	153.80	159.80	- 1.20	
Latin American	59.00	61.42	+ 0.73	0.79
Pacific	79.56	83.51	+ 0.54	0.37
Property Share	78.37	82.28†	+ 0.80	2.14
UK Emerging Cos	71.25	77.01†	+ 0.31	1.25
UK Growth	56.55	59.90	- 0.12	1.99
Aber World Port #	82.16	83.68†	- 0.40	2.97
Ethical	78.48	81.62†	+ 0.56	2.16
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.14	50.18†	+ 0.02	7.39

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5858

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Result Property #	99.76	107.30		5.30

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	157.00	168.02†	+ 0.75	1.07
UK Equity	99.78	106.57	+ 0.07	3.33
UK Equity & Bd	59.09	62.62	+ 0.12	6.10
UK Smlr Cos	53.43	57.15	+ 0.41	1.25

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	786.09	797.97	+ 1.29	4.39
Fxd Int Sec	156.08	155.70	- 1.56	9.16

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	781.33	793.13	+11.35	4.26
Investment Acc	£36.02	£36.57	+52.66	
Fixed Int Inc	128.92	129.44	+ 0.94	6.96
Fixed Int Acc	234.77	235.71	+ 1.70	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	85.61	90.24	- 1.87	5.55
Beck Bio-Tech	40.96	44.50†	...	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	189.56	199.04†		0.44
Coy Fin Assets	80.79	84.84		1.81
City Fin Intl	87.42	91.80	+ 1.44	0.14
Friars Hse Cap	317.75	338.03†		2.49
Buckley Wrld Grth	134.96	143.06	+ 2.22	
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	58.44	61.37†		3.49
Shaw Utilities	62.14	63.69	+ 0.29	4.96

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	53.16	56.40	+ 0.38	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Grwth	80.84	86.00	+ 1.20	
Dragon Growth	72.49	77.52	- 0.41	0.24
Equity High Inc	93.08	99.77†	+ 0.27	4.09
-do- Accum	135.60	145.35	+ 0.40	4.09
Extra Income Inc	26.39	27.80†	+ 0.01	7.45
Extra Income Acc	29.45	31.92	+ 0.01	7.45
European Grwth	63.60	67.48	+ 0.32	0.66
Evergreen	31.13	33.39	+ 0.18	
General Equity	110.30	117.03	+ 0.25	2.70
Japan Growth	38.62	41.09	- 0.56	
Peregree Grth	66.51	71.32	+ 0.11	2.25
Pref Sm Cos Inc	38.42	41.21	+ 0.35	1.20
-do- Accum	40.95	44.03	+ 0.37	1.20
Retirement Inc #	28.17	30.44	+ 0.04	5.94
Special Sits	48.13	51.75	+ 0.18	2.29
UK & Overseas	60.06	63.72	+ 0.29	0.51

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 898 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	72.54	75.56	+ 0.17	4.00
Capital	86.19	89.79	+ 0.18	2.55
High Income	51.96	54.12	+ 0.01	6.67
Top 50	58.53	60.96	- 0.06	2.51

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	199.56	207.89	- 0.17	4.42
Long Gilt	43.20	44.99†	- 0.01	6.26
Monthly Inc Plus	50.16	52.25	+ 0.09	8.58
Preference Share	47.61	49.60†	+ 0.10	7.83
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	143.92	149.92†	+ 0.22	5.69
Managed Fund	77.62	80.86	+ 0.15	2.74
UK Growth Funds				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	61.75	65.17†	- 1.22	0.30
European	149.80	158.10	+ 1.80	0.50
-do- Accum	158.70	167.50	+ 1.90	0.50
Extra Income	406.20	428.70	+ 0.50	4.45
-do- Accum	646.80	682.60	+ 0.80	4.45
Financial	177.60	187.40	+ 3.10	0.46
-do- Accum	188.60	199.20	+ 3.30	0.46
Gilt Trust	63.64	65.63	+ 0.09	6.65
-do- Accum	98.97	102.00	+ 0.10	6.65
Health Fund Inc	259.50	273.90	+ 2.30	
-do- Accum	259.50	273.30	+ 2.30	
Income & Growth	234.80	247.80†	+ 0.20	3.61
-do- Accum	379.40	400.40†	+ 0.40	3.61
Intl Growth	417.20	440.30	+ 0.70	
-do- Accum	463.20	488.90	+ 0.80	
Japan & Gen	141.00	148.80	- 3.30	
-do- Accum	142.40	150.30	- 3.30	
Monthly Inc #	208.00	219.20†	- 0.30	4.38
-do- Accum #	207.60	221.10†	- 0.40	4.38
Managed Port Inc	120.00	126.30	+ 0.30	1.42
-do- Accum	130.40	137.30	+ 0.40	1.42
Quarterly Income #	58.24	61.47†	+ 0.12	5.28
-do- Accum #	67.51	71.25†	+ 0.14	5.28
Recovery	330.80	353.80	+ 0.10	
-do- Accum	390.56	417.60	+ 0.10	..
UK Growth	70.54	74.45	+ 0.07	.2
-do- Accum	76.49	80.73	+ 0.07	.2

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FP American	61.77	65.65†	+ 0.51	0.08
FP Am Smllr Cos	199.00	211.20†	+ 0.20	
FP Actvs Growth	283.60	302.50		
FP Australian	413.20	440.70	+ 2.10	
FP Equity Dist	472.90	504.40†		2.41
-do- Accum	£10.56	£11.26	+ 1.00	2.41
FP Euro Gth	293.20	312.70	+ 1.00	
-do- Accum	320.70	342.00	+ 1.00	
FP Intl Bond	55.75	58.99	- 0.12	4.19
FP Intl Gth Dist	37.34	39.82†	+ 0.02	
-do- Accum	54.85	58.50	+ 0.06	
FP Pac Basin Acc	212.10	226.20†	- 0.80	
FP Income #	60.10	64.10†	+ 0.04	4.88
-do- Accum #	213.60	227.80	+ 0.10	4.88
FP Jap Smllr Coc	243.30	259.50†	- 3.70	
FP Monthly Dist #	76.63	81.73†	+ 0.02	4.96
FP Stlg Deposit	99.99	99.99†	+ 0.01	5.04
FP Tokyo	66.91	71.37	- 1.30	
FP UK Focus	43.56	46.46†	+ 0.07	1.55
FP UK Growth	205.30	218.90†		2.30
-do- Accum	417.70	445.50	+ 0.10	2.20
Stewardship Dist	454.40	484.60†	+ 3.30	1.26
-do- Accum	574.20	612.50	+ 4.30	1.26
Stewdshp Inc Dist #	81.54	86.97†	+ 0.32	4.65
-do- Accum #	113.20	120.70	+ 0.40	4.65
N Am Stshp Dist	128.10	136.60	+ 1.20	0.23
-do- Accum	137.90	147.00	+ 1.30	0.23
FP Exempt Trusts				
Inst Ethical In #	109.40	109.90	+ 0.60	3.50
Inst Ethical Ac #	109.40	109.90	+ 0.60	3.50
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Grwth Acc	128.10	136.20†	- 0.30	1.44
Open Cap Gth Acc	130.50	138.80†	+ 0.10	0.16
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	118.90	126.40	- 0.20	3.16
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	126.00	134.00	- 0.20	3.16
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	122.80	130.60	- 0.10	3.88
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	131.20	139.50	- 0.10	3.88

GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0345 581 106/7

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
GANDA	301.40	319.80	- 0.60	1.87
Cash	49.76	50.50	+ 0.05	4.79
Green Portfolio	88.01	93.63†	- 0.04	0.13
Income Portfolio	71.94	76.33	- 0.27	2.98

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Hy 5 Europe	100.80	105.70†	+ 0.20	2.38
Status Grth	195.20	208.20	+ 0.98	0.43
New Japan	84.68	89.31	- 0.90	

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	208.80	222.10†	+ 2.10	
Income #	224.05	238.35†	- 0.36	4.33
UK Growth	88.21	93.84†	- 0.42	1.80
Intl Growth	85.19	90.62	+ 0.16	0.45
Ecology	104.94	111.63	+ 0.74	0.87
European	210.814	224.27†	+ 2.14	0.56
Far Eastern	294.90	313.70†	+ 1.30	
UK Special Sits	57.31	61.13	- 0.19	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	61.75	64.87	+ 0.01	5.07
Intl Equity Growth	84.51	89.71	+ 0.32	0.84
N Amer Growth	140.36	148.93	+ 1.07	0.80
Special Sits Growth	29.17	31.03	+ 0.08	2.15
UK Growth	479.31	509.90	+ 0.58	2.65
-do- Accum	661.87	704.11	+ 0.80	2.65

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01689 825867

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1414.60	1436.60		2.90
Income #	1025.60	1042.20†		4.10

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Maldon General	170.50	174.30†	..	3.47

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KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers 0171 956 7354

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.50	103.90†		7.16
Euro Prf Inc	103.90	110.50	+ 0.80	2.75
-do- Accum	103.90	110.50	+ 0.80	2.75
Gilt Yield	118.30	124.60†	+ 0.10	6.48
Global Income	233.90	248.80	+ 1.10	3.56
High Yield	160.40	170.60†	+ 0.40	5.47
-do- Accum	535.70	569.90†	+ 1.50	5.47
Money Market	98.36	98.36†	+ 0.01	5.96
Smlr Cos Div	63.81	67.88†	+ 0.71	3.33
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	9.849	9.957		
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	156.80	166.80	+ 2.20	
Asian Growth	324.00	344.70	+ 3.50	

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0800 363432

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M & S Inv Ptflo	180.70	186.30†	+ 0.70	2.48
-do- Accum	216.60	223.30†	+ 0.90	2.48
UK Sel Ptflo	163.30	168.40†	+ 0.50	2.47
-do- Accum	198.80	205.00†	+ 0.50	2.47
UK 100 Cos	121.30	121.30	+ 0.20	2.79
-do- Accum	123.50	123.50	+ 0.10	2.79

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01304 364 842

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	71.39	75.95	- 1.17	3.58

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 479 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Income	84.44	89.64†	- 0.07	3.42
European	105.40	112.30	+ 0.50	0.65

هكذا من الأصل

Shares up after rally fades

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

BEALE INMAN
January Sale
100's of the World's Finest Designer Suits Now Half Price
131 NEW BOND STREET, W1
81 GRACECHURCH STREET, EC3
FROM TODAY

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TEXTILES & APPAREL

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 10% 5%

[illegible]

Premature request to fix date

Ever and Another v WT Partnership Construction Management

Before Lord Justice Saville, Lord *Justice Aldous and Lord Justice* Thorpe

[Judgment December 6]

A premature request to fix a hearing date in the county court under the automatic directions regime satisfied the requirements of Order 17, rule 11(3)(d) of the County Court Rules even though the court was in no position to fix a meaningful date for trial.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendant, *WT Partnership Construction* Management from Mr Recorder C. A. H. Gibson who, in Croydon County Court on October 2, 1995 allowed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Toomas Ever and Kerstin Ever, against an order of a district judge and granted a declaration that their action for breach of contract had not been struck out automatically under Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules (SI 1981 No 1687 (L20)), as substituted by County Court (Amendment No 3) Rules (SI 1990 No 1764 (L17)).

Order 17, rule 11(3)(d) provides:

"*Unless a day has already been* fixed, the plaintiff shall within six *months [of the closure of pleadings]* request the proper officer to *fix a day for the hearing...*"

Rule 11 provides: "(9) If no request is made pursuant to paragraph *(3)(d) within 15 months of the* day on which pleadings are deemed to be closed (or within nine months after the expiry of any period fixed by the court for making such a request), the action shall be automatically struck out."

Mr Paul Emerson for the defendant; Mr Miles Croally for the *plaintiffs*.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said pleadings in the case had closed in October 1993. In August 1994, pursuant to Order 17, rule 11(3)(d), the plaintiff had requested that a day be set for trial.

The district judge had ordered that "there be no order today", pointing out the dispute was complicated and needed witness statements. It would not be set down unless statements had been exchanged and a bundle lodged with the court.

In March 1995, the plaintiffs had issued a summons seeking automatic exchange of witness statements. *The defendant's solicitors,* ignoring the August 1994 application, *had maintained on counsel's* advice that the case had automati*cally been struck out under Order* 17, rule 11: see *Rastin v British Steel plc* ([1994] 1 WLR 732).

On June 9, 1995 District Judge *Palmer gave the defendants a* declaration that the action had been struck out under the automatic directions. He refused an application by the plaintiffs for an *extension*.

The plaintiffs appealed and sought a declaration *that the* action had not been automatically struck out or that it should be reinstated. Mr Recorder Gibson held that the action had not been automatically struck out and that the plaintiff had made a valid request to fix a date for trial.

The defendant appealed on the ground that the recorder had misdirected himself in law in finding that although the district judge had told the plaintiffs that their request was premature as there had been no exchange of witness statements, they were under no obligation to make a further request within the 15-month period, provided by Order 17 rule 11(10), which expired on January 27, 1995.

Mr Emerson had submitted in effect *that despite the plaintiffs'* request the automatic directions in *Order 17, rule 11(9) applied. Alternatively,* he maintained that the *plaintiffs' request was an abuse of* the court and a nullity.

His Lordship had no doubt that the request was such that it would *have satisfied the rules if made* within six months of the close of pleadings. *Perry v Wong (The Times* December 9, 1996) showed that such a request would still be valid if made within an extended period.

He could not accept that the request was an abuse of the process. The obligation to request a hearing date was independent of *whether other steps required by* Order 17, rule 11 (3) had been *completed. What was essential* was that the request be made *within the timetable laid down by* the rules.

His Lordship could not accept the submission that the request was *a nullity unless the court could* work out a meaningful date for trial. *There was a real difference* between an abuse of process and a premature *application*.

The district judge did not see the application as an *abuse and there* was no submission to that effect. In *his Lordship's view if it was an* abuse it would have been seen to *be such at the time*.

There was no suggestion in any *of the correspondence that anyone* thought it was at the time. The rules placed no obligation on the plaintiffs to make a second request, although *they* were obliged to bring the action with due expedition.

The obligation on the parties to comply with the order had to be construed objectively. His Lordship had no doubt that the recorder came to correct conclusion for the correct reasons.

Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Streeter Marshall, Croydon; Ponsford & Devenish Tivendale & Munday, Wimbledon.

Validity of reason for dismissal

Parkinson v March Consulting Ltd

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, *Lord Justice* Evans and *Sir Iain* Glidewell

[Judgment December 12]

Where a valid termination of an employee's employment required *that he be given a valid notice of* dismissal it was necessary, under *section 57(1) of the Employment* Protection (Consolidation) Act *1978, now re-enacted in section* 98 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, *that the reason for dismissal* had to be determined in relation *both to when the notice was given* and when the employment *terminated*.

The Court of Appeal so held in *dismissing an appeal by John* Phillips Parkinson against a de*cision of the Employment* Appeal Tribunal, upholding a decision of the industrial tribunal, that although his dismissal had been unfair the defect had been procedural and there should be no compensatory award against the employer, March Consulting Ltd.

Mr Pushpinder Saini for the applicant; Mr Nigel Grundy for the employer.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said *that the Act made two assumptions.* First, that there would be a *reason for the dismissal, and* section 57(1)(a) provided that if there was *more* than one then the employer had to establish what the principal reason was. Second, the Act assumed that in cases where notice was given, the reason why notice was given continued to be the reason for the dismissal when the notice took effect. The same reason would apply at both stages and throughout the notice period: see section 55(3).

Under section 57 the need to establish "the reason for the dismissal" arose solely for the purposes of "determining whether the dismissal was fair or unfair".

When the employment was terminated by reason of a notice given in accordance with the terms of the contract of employment, then the employer's reason for the dismissal had to be determined not only by reference to his reason when the *dismissal occurred but* also by reference to his reason for giving the prior notice to terminate.

As a matter of evidence that would involve considering his *reasons throughout the notice* period and evidence of what those *reasons* were *should be admissible* in any event in deciding what they were at the beginning and end of the period. The reason had to be established so that it could be shown that the dismissal was justified under section 57(1)(b).

But the dismissal could not be justified in a case where notice was required and was given without reference to the notice itself, and it followed that the reason why the notice was given was relevant also to the same inquiry.

For those reasons it was correct *that "dismissal" meant* the termination of the employee's actual *employment but that the reason* for giving notice to terminate was *also relevant unless it was a case* where summary dismissal was *justified when or before the notice* took effect.

In the instant case, his Lordship therefore held that section 57(1) required a finding which embraced the employer's reasons for the *dismissal* at the time when notice to dismiss was given, it being a *case* where the valid termination of the employment *depended upon a valid prior* notice. The industrial tribunal's *finding did not include that and it* followed that the decision disclosed *an error of law*.

However, in the circumstances *of the case any failure to comply* with section 57(1) could only be regarded as technical and it would be appropriately compensated by no more than *nominal* damages.

SIR IAIN GLIDEWELL, concurring in the result, said that *his reasons* were different.

The Act did not require that a *notice to determine* a contract of employment should state the rea*sons for the dismissal*. Section 53(1) provided that if an employee was given *by his employer* notice of termination of his contract of employment *he* was entitled to request and to be provided by the employer *within 14 days* with a written *statement* giving particulars of *the reasons for dismissal*.

If the employee requested such a statement *and did not receive it or* was given an inadequate or untrue reason *he could complain* to the tribunal. The practice had therefore grown *up that employers* usually stated a reason for dis*missal in the notice to terminate*. No doubt if an employer gave notice to terminate without any reason the employee would normally *request* a reason under section 53(1).

But suppose he did not? If, after the termination of the contract of employment, the employee then complained that he had been unfairly dismissed, it would be for the employer to show that, at the date of termination, he had a reason which came within section *57(2) and that the* dismissal was fair. There would be no relevant *date in those* circumstances other than the date of termination.

His Lordship therefore concluded that when determining the reason *for dismissal under section* 57(1) the relevant date of dismissal was *the date at which the contract* of employment terminated.

However, in deciding what was the employer's real reason at that date the *tribunal was entitled, and* in relation to a reason given in response to a *section 53 request* required by the Act, to take into account the reason *stated* in the notice and any other relevant fact or correspondence *before* the date of termination of contract.

Lord Justice Butler-*Sloss* agreed with Lord Justice Evans.

Solicitors: Betesh Fox & Co, Manchester; Chaffe Street, Manchester.

Director personally liable to customer

Williams and Another v Natural Life Health Foods Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Waite and Sir Patrick Russell

[Judgment December 5]

The director of a one-man company who negligently gave misleading advice based on his own personal experience which had nothing to do with his position as a director was personally liable to a customer who relied on his advice and consequently suffered losses.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority (*Sir Patrick Russell* dissenting) dismissing an appeal *by the second defendant, Richard* Mistlin, from a judgment of Mr *Justice Langley on December 1,* 1995 awarding £84,641 plus in*terest of £65,213.15 to the plaintiffs,* David Ian Williams and Christine *Margaret Reed, for negligent mis*representation which induced *them to enter into an agreement* with the first defendant, Natural Life Health Foods Ltd, of which the second defendant was managing director.

Mr Michael Bloch for the second *defendant; Mr Gerard Van Tonder* for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said Natural Life Health Foods Ltd had originally been the sole defendant, but when it was wound up in 1992 the plaintiffs had joined Mr Mistlin as second defendant and proceeded against him alone.

The central issue in the appeal concerned the personal liability of Mr Mistlin as managing director for the admittedly negligent misstatements made on behalf of the company, which induced the plaintiffs to enter a franchise *agreement and acquire a leasehold* health food shop in Rugby, in *reliance on the company's* financial projections.

It was not in dispute that in order to fix a director with per*sonal responsibility it had to be* shown that he assumed personal *responsibility for the negligent* misstatement made on behalf of *the company*.

In his Lordship's judgment, *having regard to the importance of* the status of limited liability, a *company director was only to be* held personally liable for the *company's negligent misstatements* if the plaintiffs could estab*lish some special circumstances* setting the case apart from the *ordinary. Particular vigilance was* needed in the case of a one-man company *lest the* protection of incorporation should be virtually nullified.

But once such special circumstances were established, the fact of incorporation, even in the case of a one-man company, did not preclude the establishment of personal liability. In each case the decision was one of fact and degree.

Mr Bloch had argued that there had in addition to be some sort of personal dealings between the director and the customer. His Lordship did not accept that, there being no trace of any such requirement in any of the authorities.

On the facts, Mr Mistlin had *played a prominent part in the* actual production of the financial *projections*. He had overridden objections from the plaintiffs' other advisers and had visited the site of the shop to approve it.

The crucial aspect, which the judge had focused, was that the *offer for sale of the franchise* included the skilled advice of a *professional team* led by Mr Mistlin without which the cus*tomer* would risk encountering the pitfalls inherent in health food retailing.

The "extensive trade dev*elopment experience*" which the company claimed was solely based on Mr Mistlin's experience. That experience was not derived from any company activity, since none of the other shops it had franchised had accumulated any experience, but from Mr Mistlin's personal experience in a shop which he personally owned and which had nothing to do with his position as a director of the company.

That, coupled with the other facts of the case, took it out of the ordinary and gave it the special character as a result of which there was personal liability.

His Lordship had reached that conclusion on the particular facts and did not think there was any risk of compromising the general concept of limited liability.

Lord Justice Waite delivered a concurring judgment and Sir Patrick Russell delivered a dissenting judgment.

Solicitors: Trethowans, Salisbury; Williams & Co, Luton.

Costs where amount repayable exceeds judgment

McCaffery v Datta and Others

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment December 11]

Where the plaintiff in a personal injury action recovered damages of an amount less than the benefit received in respect of the injury and repayable to the compensation recovery unit of the Department of Social Security under the Social Security Administration Act 1992 but greater than the defendants' payment into court, the plaintiff was entitled to be awarded the costs of the action.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Linda Maud McCaffery, from an order made by Mr Michael Brent, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, in favour of the defendants, Basudev Datta, Jean Datta and St Anne's Nursing Home Ltd.

Mr Andrew Prynne, QC, for the plaintiff; Mr Alan Jeffreys, QC, for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the appeal raised a point of general importance in relation to the exercise of a judge's discretion on costs where there was a payment into court of a sum of £2,500 or less which did not attract the provisions of the 1992 Act.

The case was one involving personal injury. By his judgment *given on March 30, 1995 the judge* found in favour of the plaintiff, but *held that she* was *one* third to blame for the accident. The judge assessed the total damages at £33,560, which after deduction of one third resulted in judgment being entered for the plaintiff for £22,373.

On April 21, 1993 the defendants had *paid* into court the sum of £2,500. The notice of payment into court *made* no reference to any sum repayable to the compensation recovery unit.

The up-to-date certificate issued by that *unit showed* that the amount repayable to the unit in the event of a compensation *payment*, as defined in the Act, being made was £25,419.

After judgment, Mr Prynne asked for an order for the costs of the action, on the basis that the amount of the judgment exceeded the payment into court. Mr Jeffreys opposed the application, submitting that the defendants should be awarded the costs after the date of payment into court.

The basis of Mr Jeffrey's submission was that since, under the provisions of the Act the entire sum received by the plaintiff had to be paid by the defendants to the compensation recovery unit, the plaintiff had gained nothing by the litigation and was not therefore the successful party. The judge acceded to that submission.

By section 81(1) of the Act "*compensation payment*" meant "any payment falling to be made ... *(a) to or in respect of the victim* in consequence of the ... injury ... *in question* ... but does *not* include benefit or an exempt payment..."

An "*exempt payment*" included a small payment as defined by section 85 *of the Act* which *enabled regulations to be made to prescribe* the financial limit of small payments. By regulation 3 of the Social Security (Recoupment) Regulations (SI 1990 No 322) the limit of small payments was £2,500.

Although the plaintiff had not been successful, at least in obtaining any money for herself, his *Lordship did not follow how* a defendant, especially one who had denied liability, could be said to be successful when he had incurred a liability, as a result of the judgment, to pay £22,373. The fact that *the defendants had to satisfy the* judgment in the plaintiff's favour by *making payment to the* compensation recovery unit was immaterial.

The judge was wrong to consider that the payment into court of £2,500 was akin to one of £25,419. It was not. *His Lordship would vary* the judge's order so as to award the plaintiff the costs *of the action*.

Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Ward agreed.

Solicitors: Taylor Joynson Garrett Carmelite; Greenwoods.

Queen's Bench Division

Paying for special needs

Regina v Hillingdon London Borough Council, Ex parte Governing Body of Queensmead School

Before Mr Justice Collins

[Judgment December 10]

A local education authority had a duty to arrange for the require*ments of pupils with special educa*tional needs to be met so that if the *authority's formula for calculating* costs of such provision did not *produce* enough for that to be done, it must make up the balance and could not require a school to use its funds for that purpose.

Mr Justice Collins so stated in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an application for judicial review by *Queensmead School against the* decision of Hillingdon's education *committee on March 18, 1996 to* vary the formula used to calculate *funding assigned to designated* schools resulting in a 62 per cent *decrease in the amount expected* by Queensmead.

Mr David Harris, QC and Mr Anthony Bradley for the school; Mr Gerald Moriarty, QC and Ms Mary Macpherson for the council.

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said that budgetary constraints and lack of funds could play no part in the assessment of a child's special educational needs. That followed from *R v Gloucestershire County Council, Ex parte Barry (The Times* July 12, 1996; [1996] 4 All ER 421).

Financial constraints could be *considered in deciding how those* needs were to be met, provided *always that they were met*. It could not be said that a need existed but *it would be too expensive to* provide for it. The requirement was to meet the needs, but the provision made might be the minimum necessary to meet them.

The local education authority had a *non-delegable duty* to arrange that the special educational provision specified in a statement was made for a child under section 168(5)(a)(i) of the Education Act 1993.

The way in which the provision was made might be the most economical so long as it was made. The governors of the school in their turn had a duty under section 161(1)(a) of the 1993 Act to use their best endeavours to secure that the special educational provision was made.

The duty of the local education authority to arrange that provision was made would often be discharged by providing funds to cover the minimum necessary. In some cases the local education authority would itself make the necessary provision.

It might also agree with the school or anyone else that the provisions would be met by them: see *R v Oxfordshire County Council, Ex parte P* ([1996] ELR 153).

In his Lordship's judgment, the local education authority could only carry out its duty to arrange *that the* necessary provision was made by providing the required *funding, unless it could either* enter into an agreement with the *school that the school would make* the necessary provision and pay *for it or for any part of it or make it* itself or arrange for a third party to make it.

It need not fund to any greater extent than was sufficient to enable the school to make the minimum necessary provision. Since the duty was owed to each child, it would normally be necessary and would certainly be desirable to discuss with the school how the provision could best be made and funded for each child.

Where a formulaic approach was adopted the general principles applied. If the formula produced a sufficient sum the school could not complain. If not, then the education authority had to give more.

It was for the education authority to decide what was sufficient but it had to take all relevant matters into consideration and, as it seemed to his Lordship, unless it discussed the matter with the school, it was likely to fail to have regard to the actual needs of all the relevant pupils, and where a change was being made, to whether the formula was indeed sufficient to enable the school to provide for the needs.

In addition, it was essential that the formula was properly applied so that sufficient sums were provided.

In the present case the reduction of funds was unlawful.

Further, in his Lordship's view, fairness did, subject to one proviso, require that a school had to be notified and be allowed to make representations where the only reasonable view was that the reduction in money was likely to have a significant effect on its overall budget. Consultation in that sense was required.

Solicitors: Roebuck & Co, Hounslow; Ms Catherine Thomas, Uxbridge.

Benefit to adopted person must be shown

In re L (Adoption: Disclosure of information)

Before Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Pill and Sir Patrick Russell

[Judgment December 12]

A natural parent, wishing to make even indirect inquiries about her adopted child, had to show circumstances of an exceptional nature and also that contact would result in some need or benefit to the adopted person. *Strong emotional* curiosity on the part of the natural *parent was not sufficient to per*suade a court to override the *statutory duty of non-disclosure* imposed on the Registrar General *by section 50(5) of the Adoption Act* 1976.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the *natural mother against the refusal* by Mr Justice Cazalet on Novem*ber 23, 1995 to order the Registrar* General to disclose original entries *in the Adopted* Children *Register*.

Mr Andrew Macfarlane for the appellant; *Lord Meston, QC, for* the Registrar General.

THE PRESIDENT said that by virtue of the section 50(5) of the 1976 Act the Registrar General was *under a duty not to disclose* any information except under a court *order or, in accordance with* section 51, on an application by the *adopted person*.

Both that Act and the Children *Act 1989 established a procedure* whereby the adopted person could *make contact with the natural* birth family. There was no corres*ponding procedure or right in* reverse.

Twenty years *previously the* natural mother had made indirect inquiries about *her* child through the National Children Adoption Agency but there had been no evidence then or since that the child had wished to make contact with the natural mother.

The agency had ceased to exist and its records had been taken over by Westminster City Council which had a policy of making disclosures only on the application of the adopted person.

While there was no statutory test as such, the mandatory language of section 50(5) did import an element of the "exceptional" into the situation. The case of *In re H (Adoption: Disclosure of information)* ([1995] 1 FLR 236) appeared to suggest a lesser test: that a birth family applicant merely needed to establish a case of "sufficient weight and justification".

However, even though the approach to adoption had been *considerably relaxed since the case* of *Lawson v Registrar General* ((1956) 106 LJ 204) which emphasised the importance of the *veil of confidentiality surrounding* adoptions, the argument advanced *on behalf of the respondent in In re H*, that the court's discretion *should be exercised very sparingly* and only in exceptional circum*stances*, was in fact the preferable one.

Here the appellant had not made out a case of a sufficiently *exceptional nature, nor was there* evidence of benefit to the adopted *person, and the appeal failed*.

Lord Justice Pill and Sir Patrick *Russell agreed*.

Solicitors: Mishcon de Reya; Solicitor, Department of Health.

Costs orders in children cases

R v R (Children cases: Costs)

Notwithstanding the general practice of making no order as to costs *in children's cases*, there were exceptions, one of which was *where a party* had behaved unreasonably in relation to the *litigation*.

The Court of Appeal (Lord *Justice Staughton and Mrs Justice* Hale) so held on December 5 *allowing in part an appeal by the* father of a child, R, from Judge *Goldstein who in Bow County* Court on October 18, 1994 had *ordered him to pay the mother's* *costs in ancillary proceedings* concerning the child.

MRS JUSTICE HALE said that three reasons had been advanced for the general practice of not *making costs orders* in such cases: (i) it would diminish the sums *available to meet the needs of the* family; (ii) the threat of having to *pay the costs if they lost would* deter parents from putting their *views to the court; and (iii) it might* exacerbate tensions between the *parties, which would not be in the* child's best interests: see *Gojkovic v Gojkovic (No 2)* ([1991] 2 FLR 233, *237) and Sutton London Borough Council v Davis (No 2)* ([1994] 2 *FLR 569, 570-1)*.

However, there clearly were cases where it was appropriate to make costs orders in proceedings relating to children, for example where one of the parties had been guilty of unreasonable conduct.

In this case the judge had formed the view that the father's conduct was unreasonable and there was nothing to cast doubt on the exercise of his discretion in deciding that it was appropriate to order the father to pay the costs.

Scots Law Report House of Lords

Feu charter clause not applicable

Highland Council (formerly *Ross and Cromarty District* Council) v Patience and Others

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Griffiths, Lord Mustill, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde

[Speeches December 12]

A clause of pre-emption in a feu charter did not apply to the process under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 for the acquisition of his dwelling house by a secure tenant.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by Highland Council, as statutory successors to Ross and Cromarty District Council, against a decision of the Second Division of the Court of Session upholding a decision of the lower courts that the council was not entitled to sell a dwelling house to the first and second defenders, John Patience and Rebecca Reid, who as tenants in occupation had *sought to exercise their statutory* right of purchase, because of a *clause of pre-emption in the council's* title in favour of the third defenders, Broadland Properties Estates Ltd, the council's feudal superiors.

The clause provided: "The feuars shall not sell or dispone the feu or any part thereof or any of the building thereon to any person or persons whomsoever until the same shall first have been offered to the superiors at a price to be fixed by arbitration."

Mr G. N. H. Emslie, QC and Mr *J. R. Doherty* for the appellant; the respondents did not appear and were not represented; Mr I. Bonomy, QC, as amicus curiae

LORD CLYDE said that provided he qualified under the statu*tory provisions the tenant had* a right to acquire the dwelling house *and the landlord was obliged* to sell and convey it to him. While the *statute used the terminology of* "purchase" and "sell" the statutory *purchase which was achieved by* the procedure was not a consen*sual* sale.

There was no special context in *the use of the word "sale" in the feu* clause which could deprive it of its *ordinary meaning of a voluntary* contract.

As was recognised in Kirkness v John Hudson & Co Ltd ([1955] AC 696) the word was *not commonly* used to describe a compulsory acquisition under the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts. It was commonly used to mean a consensual sale. Similarly the word "dispone" in the context of the clause should also be understood as referring to a voluntary conveyance.

Beyond the ordinary meaning of the words used it was proper to construe the deed as at its date in 1939. It was inconceivable that at that date the parties could have contemplated that council tenants would be given a statutory right to acquire their homes and that the public sector landlord would be obliged to sell and convey their houses to them.

Furthermore, that the sale at which the clause of pre-emption struck was of a voluntary character was confirmed by the consideration that the clause was fenced with an irritancy.

It could not have been the intention of the parties that the feudal grant could be annulled by a sale of the subject in question which the landlord was bound under statute to carry out.

Turning to the question whether on a proper construction of the provisions of the 1987 Act the secure tenant could exercise his right to purchase *his* dwelling house regardless of a right of pre*emption in the title of the landlord*: that involved a stark choice between *holding on the one hand* that all rights inconsistent with the right to purchase were superseded by the legislation and on the other hand that the legislation *might* only operate when no such rights existed.

The comprehensive nature of the statutory provisions left no room for the exercise of a right of pre-emption by a third party. Section 61(1) which provided the right to purchase applied in terms of subsection (2) to "every house let under a secure tenancy". The Act prescribed precise limits regarding the cases where the right might and might not be exercised. Had *Parliament intended* to preserve a right of pre-emption that could readily have been done.

Given the width of the opening *words of section 61(1): "Notwithstanding* anything contained *in any agreement..." the relation*ship established by the feu charter might reasonably be included within the scope of the phrase "any agreement".

In a strict sense the feu charter was a grant but the basis of the feudal relationship was one of a continuing contract and it was *not* an undue straining of the statutory language to include a right of pre-emption as being something contained in an agreement for the purpose of section 61(1).

On that approach the section overrode the right of pre-emption as being an impediment to the right to purchase.

Lord Goff, Lord Griffiths, Lord Mustill and Lord Steyn agreed.

Solicitors: Lee Bolton Lee for Simpson & Marwick, WS, Edinburgh; Treasury Solicitor for Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Stopping-up order condition invalid

South Lanarkshire Council v Secretary of State for Scotland

Before Lord Sutherland, Lord Kirkwood and Lord Penrose

[Judgment December 6]

Where planning permission was *granted for the erection of gates* across a road and the existence of a *public right of way over the road* was disputed, the planning au*thority could not make it a con*dition that the developer should first obtain a stopping-up order, because if there was no public right of way such an order would be neither competent nor necessary, and if there was a public right of way then in any event the grant of planning permission would not itself entitle the developer to *lock* the gates without obtaining such an order.

An Extra Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held, refusing an appeal by South Lanarkshire Council against a decision by a reporter appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland to delete a condition imposed by the council in a grant of planning permission.

Mr Neil Mackinnon for the council; Mr Colin Tyre for the secretary of state.

LORD KIRKWOOD, delivering the opinion of the court, said that the permission had been granted for the erection of gates across a road, subject to a condition which required in effect that the applicants should first obtain a stopping-up order under section 198A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972.

In deleting the condition the reporter had observed that if a stopping-up order was indeed necessary, the grant of unconditional planning permission would not entitle the applicants to proceed. The reporter had not made any finding as to whether a public right of way existed.

The appellants argued that the reporter should have made such a finding as to whether there was a public right of way before deleting the condition.

The *secretary of state contended* that if there was a public right of way, then a *stopping-up* order would be required before the road could be blocked, whether or not a condition to that effect was imposed.

If there was no public right of way, there was *no need for* a stopping-up order. Moreover, in that event the condition would be impossible to meet, because the existence of a *public right* of way was a precondition for the making of a stopping-up order.

Either way, *the disputed* condition was wholly unnecessary *and pointless. Its imposition* was therefore not within the powers of *the planning authority*.

Furthermore, a stopping-up order would be required only if the gates were locked, whereas the planning permission related only to their erection.

Moreover, the reporter had not been obliged to reach a concluded view as to whether there was a *right of way, because a finding on* that issue would not have been *binding on third parties*.

Their Lordships had concluded *that* the submissions for the secretary of state were well founded. They further observed that, as the evidence led before him had not resolved the question of whether there was a public right of way, the reporter had been right to delete the condition.

Law agents: Henderson Boyd Jackson; Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

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هكذا من الأصل

■ FILM 1

Streisand stars, directs and dominates the comedy romance of *The Mirror Has Two Faces*

■ FILM 2

Powerful and controversial, *Some Mother's Son* depicts the grief surrounding the Maze hunger strike

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FILM 3

Veteran director Michelangelo Antonioni returns with four amorous tales stitched into *Beyond the Clouds*

■ FILM 4

... while 1950s Sicily is the setting for Giuseppe Tornatore's new, and disappointing, *The Star Maker*

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** sees a great Hollywood ego spin out of control in *The Mirror Has Two Faces*

Streisand loses her vanity case

Scan the poster for The Mirror Has Two Faces. You will find her name there seven times. She stars. She directs. She co-produces. She composed the love theme. She also supplies her ego and vanity, although those contributions are not listed. They do not need to be: everything about Barbra Streisand's new film, an old-fashioned comedy-drama about two university teachers experimenting with a sexless marriage, trumpets them to the skies.

For those who prefer their Streisand singing, not acting, frustrations lie in wait. Several scenes seem sculpted to lead up to a number, only to lead to silence; perversely, she then lets rip during the closing credits, while the audience is filing out. But for those content to watch Streisand flaunt her obsessions and swamp the screen like an old-time Hollywood diva, fun of an absurd kind is guaranteed.

Consider the plot, embellished by scriptwriter Richard LaGravenese from a forgotten French film of 1958. In *Le Miroir à deux faces*, Michèle Morgan plays a plain-looking girl in a loveless marriage. A face-lift seems the perfect reviver, but it brings in its wake family break-up and murder. Nobody gets killed in Streisand's version: they are too busy dancing attendance to her character Rose, a literature professor at Columbia University who gives great lectures on courtly love but is too much the ugly duckling to find love herself. Enter, conveniently, Jeff Bridges's Gregory Larkin, maths professor at the same institution, a stud anxious to be put out to pasture, who places a dating ad ending with the sentence "Physical appearance not important".

They connect. They get married. But Bridges's lack of interest in physical love sparks Rose's determination to make herself over. She works out, kinks her hair, smears on the lipstick, and shows off her legs in a clingy black dress. Here Streisand gets herself into difficulties. Since she never allowed Rose the ugly duckling to look ugly to begin with, the dramatic developments caused by Rose the swan begin to look hollow.

As director, Streisand leaves nothing to chance, pummelling home both the comedy and romance as though her audience were blind and deaf. This was a troubled production, during which Streisand replaced her director of photography, her film editor, even Dudley Moore (originally cast in George Segal's role as Bridges's university confidant). Those who stayed the course survived with some honour, although only Bridges's role has much to offer beyond caricature.

Others involved include Lauren Bacall, stylishly spitting out sour lines; Pierce Brosnan, oozing James-Bondish charm, and Mimi Rogers. But they know and we know — and she certainly knows — that everything shrivels before the divine, the preposterous, Barbra.

Some Mother's Son begins with another strong woman, Margaret Thatcher, speaking on the No 10 doorstep after her election in 1979. She quotes St Francis of Assissi about reconciliation and healing wounds. This is irony applied as a hammer blow, for the film takes pleasure in showing how the intransigence of the British led to the 1981 hunger strike at the Maze Prison.

But polemical confrontation is not the main aim of this powerful drama by Terry George and Jim Sheridan, co-writers of *In the Name of the Father*. Its focus is the family, and the effect of imprisonment on those left behind, whatever their persuasion. Helen Mirren's Kathleen Quigley is a pacifist, a widowed school teacher in a quiet fishing village whose life is changed when her son is arrested after a shoot-out with the British Army. She condemns IRA tactics and all violence: that point made, the film then proceeds to champion the hunger strikers, led by Bobby Sands, and chart the growing friendship with a mother of fierce Republican sympathies, played by Fionnula Flanagan.

The Mirror Has Two Faces
Odeon Leicester Square
PG, 126 mins
Barbra Streisand's vanity show

Some Mother's Son
Curzon West End
15, 112 mins
Strong human drama

Beyond the Clouds
Lumiere, 18, 113 mins
Antonioni returns

Robinson in Space
ICA Cinema
PG, 83 mins
Diverting film essay from Patrick Keiller

The Star Maker
ABC Shaftesbury Ave
18, 105 mins
Cinema not so paradiso

The film is at its edgy best when these two mothers, played by two powerful actresses, get together to wrangle or bond. Flanagan refuses to sit below the Queen's picture in a pub. "She'd sour the drink," she says. But both need the help of British forces to free their car from a soggy beach. The light comedy of that scene is an exception: Terry George, who directs, generally prefers the full-frontal assault.

He is led at times into easy caricature. You could suggest government duplicity without stocking its ranks with beady-eyed yuppies in power shirts. As for the prisoners, led by John Lynch's Sands, they are presented as martyrs, their long beards suggesting Robinson Crusoe at least, at most Jesus Christ. But this is ultimately a story about mothers, not sons, with a strong enough drive and universal appeal to lift it above the political or sectarian divide.

Beyond the Clouds is art cinema rampant, complete with elegant images framed to a nicety and a script heavy with pregnant thoughts. The octogenarian Michelangelo Antonioni, back at work after a debilitating stroke, casts his eye on landscapes and buildings, on vast skies and little human gestures, as he used to in the golden days of *L'Avventura* and *L'Eclisse*.

Or almost as he used to: for what we miss from this episodic film made in 1995 is the sustained invention and conceptual rigour that made Antonioni's best films so remarkable. The four tales of love and desire, drawn from the director's own collection *That Bowling Green on the Tiber*, veer towards the footling; and the surrounding framework, directed separately by Wim Wenders, is notable mostly for making John Malkovich look ridiculous as Antonioni's surrogate, a director seeking characters and situations.

Yet even when the film becomes risible, we still keep watching, wondering what object the camera will frame next, or what echoes from past Antonioni meditations on modern life and alienation will waft into sight. There is also an extraordinary cast to keep us company, ranging from Fanny Ardant and Peter Weller to the late Marcello Mastroianni, seen copying a Cézanne painting under Jeanne Moreau's beady eye.

Robinson in Space offers more opportunities for intellectual games and startling sights. But instead of Antonioni's empty Italian beaches, the camera focuses on British factories, golf clubs, shopping malls, even the HMV store at Reading. The man behind the lens is Patrick Keiller, who undertook a similar survey of the capital's wonders in his dazzlingly quirky *London*. This sequel contains more humour and more politics: through the musings of the unseen, unnamed narrator and his equally unseen friend Robinson, we experience an England adrift from its past, destabilised by economic upheaval.

As Keiller's camera celebrates pylons, bizarre road signs, and nuclear sites, Paul Scofield's wry voice entertains us with choice facts about architects, Toyota, MPs educated at Eton, or Britain's pre-eminence in the fetish wear trade. To be sure, the dry intellectual game is not everyone's cup of tea, and the game does not quite deserve even 83 minutes. But *Robinson* still advances Keiller's claim to be the liveliest spark of the British independent scene, and the wittiest film essayist since the early Peter Greenaway.

Audiences who fell for Giuseppe Tornatore's *Cinema Paradiso* may have their loyalties tested by **The Star Maker**, the director's latest love letter to the world of cinema and Sicilian life. The images are pretty to look at in a postcard kind of way; but the story about a shyster from Rome in the early 1950s who dupes villagers out of their money by posing as a talent scout from a film studio is too drawn out, and generates too many bogus emotions. The non-professional cast brings a fresh breeze here and there, while Sergio Castellitto works hard to make the lead character interesting; but he never makes him likeable.

"For those content to watch Streisand flaunt her obsessions and swamp the screen like an old-time Hollywood diva, fun of an absurd kind is guaranteed"

Russians bared

Ask a handful of people for their perception of Russia as gleaned from the daily news and they will probably talk about a Third World shambles led by a man who could not pass a breath test after breakfast. Yet an informed view of the place is surely essential to an informed view of the world, which makes **Russia, Five Years On** (Radio 3, Mondays) one of the most welcome new radio series in ages.

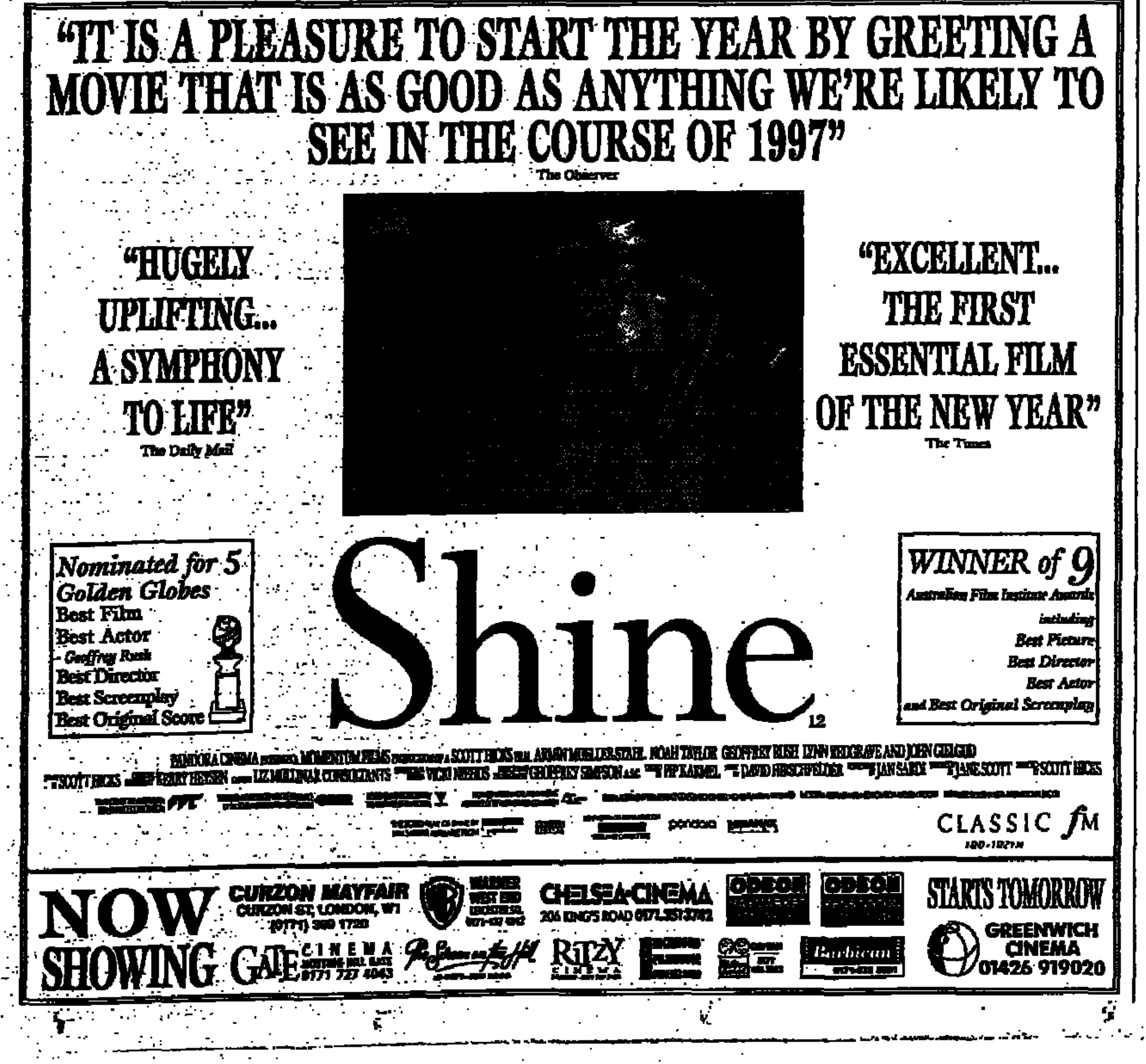
The series is presented by Geoffrey Hosking, a professor of Russian history. In the first programme (of five) he talked with Ralph Land, chairman of the Russo-British chamber of commerce. Land describes himself as a "realistic optimist" about Russia, and believes that Russia could be the key growth economy of the next century.

RADIO

This view is startling to those used to television news items about the Russian mafia and unpaid battleship commanders hanging out their washing on the bridge deck. The country of stumbling Boris is actually the richest in raw materials (oil, gold, diamonds) on the planet and it runs a huge export surplus, needed to pay for food and other imports. Not that it should be importing much food, but of course Russian agriculture is as big a joke as British public transport. Land made the point that the notion of privatising collectives and turning them into small family units is one thing, but what about all the farm machinery designed for huge acreages?

Communism was a duff philosophy with at least one redeeming feature: it produced a highly educated workforce. Much of that army is now unemployed. But there are 300 British companies with offices in Moscow, so something is happening.

PETER BARNARD



"IT IS A PLEASURE TO START THE YEAR BY GREETING A MOVIE THAT IS AS GOOD AS ANYTHING WE'RE LIKELY TO SEE IN THE COURSE OF 1997"
The Observer

"HUGELY UPLIFTING... A SYMPHONY TO LIFE"
The Daily Mail

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The Times

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Best Director
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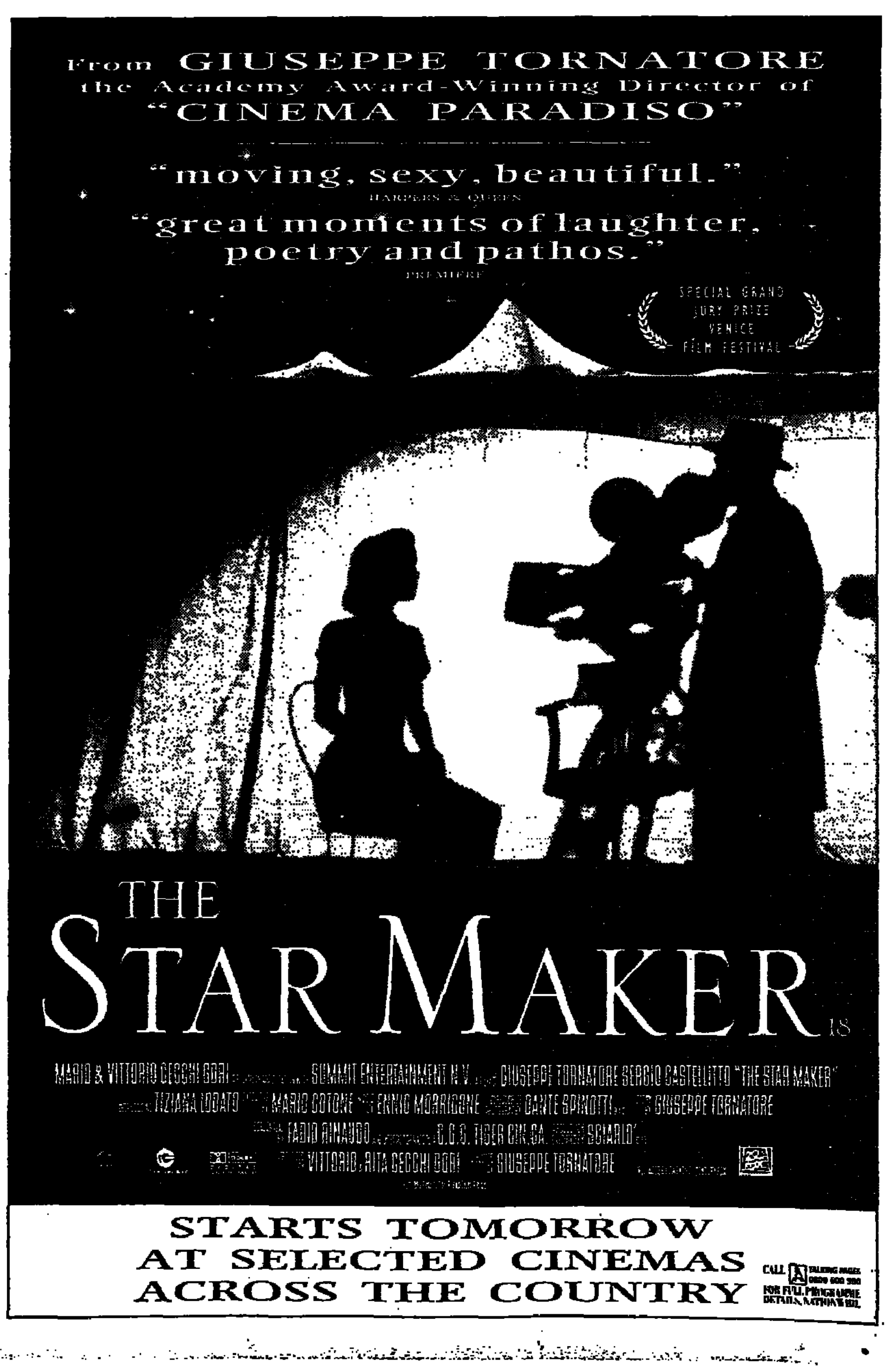

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THE STAR MAKER 18

STARTS TOMORROW
AT SELECTED CINEMAS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY

■ CHOICE 1

Strindberg in triplicate: a trio of short plays comes to London

VENUE: From tonight at the Gate Theatre

■ CHOICE 2

Peter Donohoe plays piano music by Liszt and Schubert

VENUE: Tonight at the Warwick Arts Centre

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

Gidon Kremer plays Berg's Violin Concerto with the Hallé

VENUE: Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, tonight

■ NEW VIDEOS

Ringside seat: Robert De Niro plays the boxer in the Martin Scorsese classic, *Raging Bull*

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Antonio Pappano makes his concert debut with the **London Symphony Orchestra** conducting Smetana's overture to *The Bartered Bride* and Tchaikovsky's melancholy Symphony No 6. Maxim Vengerov joins the orchestra for Dvořák's delightful Violin Concerto.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

SNOWSHOW Award-winning and engaging show by the Russian clown Slava with the Brazilian Angela de Castro. Not only has it a lot of snow but also an amazing spider's web.
Peacock, Portugal Street (off Kingsway), WC2 (0171-312 1996). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Jan 10, 12, *14 and 15, 17 and 19, 21 and 22, 24 and* 26, 29-30, 8pm; mats Sun (Jan 12, 19, 26) 4pm. Until January 30.

THREE CHAMBER PLAYS Three short plays by Strindberg about soured or poisonous relationships — *Storm*, *After the Fire*, *The Ghost Sonata* — that should gain from being played together. Presented in pairs, with the trilogy on Thursdays and Saturdays. Ring box office for details of pairings.
Gate, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Opens with trilogy tonight, 6.30pm. Then Mon-Wed and Fri 7.30pm; Thurs and Sat 6.30pm. Until February 1.

ELSEWHERE

BUXTON Bridge Theatre returns for a third season with an ingenious thriller by Richard Harris about the devious Mr Stone and his motive for bringing *together an inspector and a confessed killer* for **The Business of Murder**.
Opera House, Water Street (01298 72190). Today-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 7pm. Until January 12.

COVENTRY In the first of three recitals celebrating the bicentenary of Schubert's birth, **Peter Donohoe** performs the composer's Four Impromptus and his Wanderer Fantasy. The B Minor Sonata by Liszt, one of the composers upon whom Schubert had a profound impact, completes the programme. *The other two recitals will* be given on January 22 and 31.
Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick (01203 524524). Tonight, 8pm.

MAIDSTONE **Italian Illustration Now!** opens today. The exhibition brings together a wide range of works by members of the Association of Illustrators in Milan through advertising, editorial design and book illustration.
George Rodger Gallery, Kent Institute of Art and Design (KIAD), Oakwood Park (01622 757286). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Until February 5.

MANCHESTER A highlight of the **Halle Orchestra**'s season is this evening's performance of Berg's Violin Concerto by the virtuoso violinist Gidon Kremer. Kent Nagano, the Hallé's music director, also leads the orchestra in Haydn's Lamentatione Symphony and Beethoven's Seventh Symphony.
Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley *Street (0161-907 9000). Tonight*, 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Alan Cristea Colour Etching (0171-439 1866) **Chris Beetles** The British Art of Illustration, 1780-1996 (0171-839 7551) **Curwen** Fitzrovia Gallery Opening Exhibition (0171-636 1459) **Hart** Jean Macalpine, Vertical Rock (0171-704 1131) **Hayward** Howard Hodgkin Paintings (0171-928 3144) **Llewellyn Alexander** Peter McArdle — One Man Show (0171-620 1322) **National Portrait** John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award 1996 (0171-306 0055) **Redfern** Still Life and Interior (0171-734 1732) **Royal College of Art** The Art of Illustration (0171-590 4444) **Whitechapel** Tony Cragg (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **BLOOD AND ICE** Revival of Liz Lochhead's first play, telling of the birth of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, in the company of Byron and Percy Bysshe, on the shores of Lake Geneva. John Link directs for Odyssey Productions.
New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-794 0022). Opens tonight 7.45pm. Then Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat *and Sun 3.30pm. Until February 2*.

■ **THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT** *Commissioned play* from comedian David Schneider in which he plays a single man nerving himself to tell his mother (Sheila Steafel) he fancies a girl who isn't nice and Jewish. Matthew Lloyd directs.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm. *Until January 18*.

◪ **FAMILY CIRCLES** Early *Ayckbourn: three sisters who change* partners for each new scene, showing that marriage can be hazardous whoever you choose. An entertaining frolic.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats today and Thurs (Jan 16, 23), 2.30pm; Sat 4pm. *Until February 15*.

☐ **I'LL BE YOUR DOG** Three women *and one male maid are the characters in* Robbie McCallum's first stage play, directed by the excellent Andrea Brooks.
Old Red Lion, 418 St John Street, EC1 (0171-837 7816). Tue-Sun, 8pm.

◪ **LIGHT SHINING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** The National's *mobile production by Mark Wing-Davey* of Caryl Churchill's drama of apocalyptic revolution: 17th-century Diggers routed by the property-owning Cromwell. Returns to the Cottesloe in February for *its final ten performances*.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews today, 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm. Then Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. In rep.

◪ ***MACBETH*** Fascinating production by Tim Albery, with Roger Allam and Brid Brennan as Mr and Mrs Thane. Adrian Schiller is the funniest Porter ever seen.
Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 *(0171-638 8891). Today, 2pm and* 7.15pm. In rep.

☐ ***NEW TERRITORIES*** *A journey of* self-discovery from Hong Kong to English public school, sexual awakening, culture clash, etc. Written and directed by David Tse, who recently staged the delicate *House of the Sleeping Beauties* at Leicester.
Oval House, 52 Kennington Oval, SE11 (0171-582 7680). Previews today, *8pm. Opens tomorrow, 8pm. Then* Thurs-Sun, 8pm. Until January 26.

◪ ***SHOWSTOPPER*** *Dan Rebellato's* comedy based on the working life of Marni Nixon, the Hollywood dubbing queen who provided the singing voice of Audrey Hepburn and others who couldn't reach the right notes. Sarah Frankcom directs Jackie Clune, ironically best known as *The Voice of Karen Carpenter*.
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 2132). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat 7pm and 9pm. Until February 1.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Buddy** *Strand* (0171-930 8800) ☐ **Cats** New London (0171-405 0072) ☐ **An Ideal Husband** Old Vic (0171-928 7616) ◪ **Les Misérables** Palace (0171-434 0909) ☐ **Miss Saigon** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ☐ **The Mousetrap** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera** Her Majesty's *(0171-494 5400)* ◪ **Sunset Boulevard** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ☐ **Tommy** Shaftesbury (0171-379 5399) ☐ **The Woman in Black** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

SHINE (12) Child prodigy pianist crumples under the strain. Uplifting, often funny treatment of a true story, *from Australian director Scott Hicks*.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) ***Odeons: Haymarket*** (01426-915 353) **Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SLEEPERS** (18) Reform school *inmates avenge themselves on a* sadistic guard. Overblown tale with an impressive cast (Kevin Bacon, Brad Pitt, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman).
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) ***Swiss Cottage*** *(01426 914098)* **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) ***Warner*** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **DAYLIGHT** (12) Sylvester Stallone leads a cross-section of humanity from a blazing New York tunnel. Amusing old-style disaster movie.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Empire** (0990-888 990) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

EVITA (PG) Madonna sings with passion, but production overkill plays havoc with Lloyd Webber's rock opera. With Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce. Directed by Alan Parker.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171 935 2772) **Screen/Green** *(0171-226 3520)* ***UCI Whiteleys*** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ ***THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT*** (18) Preposterous, hard-driven action movie, with Geena Davis as an amnesiac government assassin.
Odeon Kensington (01426-914 666) ***Mezzanine*** Ⓢ *(01426 915683)* **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Virgin Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **101 DALMATIANS** (U) Glenn Close knocks spots off the dogs in the live-action edition of the cartoon classic.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) ***Odeons: Kensington*** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT** (12) Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew battles the Borgs. Acceptable adventure, if a little too serious. With Brent Spiner and Alice Krige.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) ***Tottenham Court Road*** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0990-888 990) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** Ⓢ *(0990 888990)* ***Ritzy*** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

Scorsese's knockout punch

NEW ON VIDEO

Glove story: Robert De Niro as Jake LaMotta wins the middleweight title in Martin Scorsese's *Raging Bull*

■ **RAGING BULL**
Faber Video Boxed Set, 1980, 18
A WIDESCREEN edition of Scorsese's masterly film, complete with original trailer, is now available packaged with a newly updated edition of the Faber paperback *Scorsese on Scorsese*, taking the director's career up to *The Age of Innocence* and *Casino*. Neither of those films has the force of the saga of middleweight boxing champion Jake LaMotta, whose rise and fall is depicted with astonishing verve and insight.

■ **CHAMPION**
4 Front, U, 1949
BEWARE, beware: Kirk Douglas is loose, scrambling up the boxing ladder, spitting out lines through his teeth ("Call me mister, not 'Hey you'"), trampling over friends and mistresses, even his mother. The notion of boxing as a racket is hardly brand new, but Mark Robson's film, written by Carl Foreman, tells a gutsy tale, presented with style, and it set the seal on Douglas's Hollywood stardom.

■ **THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME**
4 Front, 1939, PG
FORGET Disney's new animated version for a moment, and feast your eyes on Charles Laughton's extraordinary Quasimodo in this splendid version of Victor Hugo's novel. Spare some applause too for director William Dieterle, trained on the German stage — a magician with crowd scenes and the grotesqueries of medieval life. Vast sturdy sets, choice supporting players: a top-notch job.

■ **ROUGH MAGIC**
Fox Guild, 12, 1995
IN THE early 1950s, a magician's assistant (Bridget Fonda) finds true magic in Mexico. To get the best from this engaging oddity you must abandon preconceptions and go with the flow of a crazy story that embraces levitation, a man turned into a sausage and a talking dog. Not every moment is perfectly judged, but the cast move confidently through tricky terrain, and at best director Clare Peploe creates an enchanted environment where you feel anything could happen. To rent.

■ **SCREAMERS**
Columbia TriStar, 18, 1996
THE year is 2078, the place the planet Sirius B. You would not want to visit: the surface is a radioactive wasteland, civil war is under way, and you are vulnerable to attack from "screamers" — mechanical gizmos that scurry under the earth like moles on rollerblades and slice the unwary to bits. This SF romp, devised from a Philip K. Dick story, offers an entertaining carnival for genre fans, though it lacks the force to break out and reach general audiences. Peter Weller is the hero trying to escape; Christian Duguay the Canadian director. A rental release.

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■ **BEETHOVEN**
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Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra/Mackerras
EMI Eminence
CDM 5 65789 2★★★ £8.49
CHARLES MACKERRAS'S avowed intention, in this new mid-price Beethoven cycle, is to bridge the gulf between the approaches of the period-instrument specialists and the mainstream symphony orchestras. The key is in the fleet tempos he adopts, based on Beethoven's metronome markings. Quite rightly, he points out that Beethoven "was the heir of Haydn long before he became the forerunner of Wagner". I would therefore recommend that anyone of a nervous disposition should listen to Mackerras's account of the First before moving on to the *Eroica*, since the former's more clearly defined Classical context simply cries out for this treatment. It is a joyous performance, utterly compelling and convincing.

Mackerras's swift one-in-a-bar for the first movement of the *Eroica* takes the breath away, but the performance as a whole, with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic adopting stylish period manners, is refreshing and revealing.

If you like your Beethoven in more traditional style, then Christian Thielemann's accounts of the Fifth and Seventh Symphonies with the Philharmonia (DG 449 981-2) may be for you.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **CAROL VANESS**
Verdi & Donizetti
O'Neill/Munich Radio Orchestra/R. Abbado
RCA 09026 61828 2★★ £14.99
THIS recital dates from spring 1993 and, four years on, RCA has still not managed to supply texts of the arias. But these gripes aside, there is much to admire. Carol Vaness is a true dramatic soprano, at her best with ladies close to the end of their tether.

Anna Bolena, in Donizetti's opera of that name, has only a few minutes to go in the final scene. On the way to the scaffold Vaness covers Anna's whole range of emotions from pleading through memories of childhood — a quick borrowing of *Home, sweet home* — to forgiveness for her executioners. Donizetti is at his grandest and RCA provides full supporting cast.

The sleepwalking scene from Verdi's *Macbeth* carries equal insight and shows off both Vaness's imposing lower register and the almost Slavonic darkness in the voice. It is time for a new recording of the opera and, if Vaness sustains such form, there is no need to look further for the female lead. Verdi's softer heroines, Desdemona and Violetta, suit Vaness less well and there are some pinched notes in the upper register.

Roberto Abbado and his Munich players give top-class support, especially in *Otello*, and Dennis O'Neill shines in his off-stage contributions to *Traviata* and *Trovatore*.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ ***MEETING OF ANGELS***
Ensemble Gilles Binchois/Khan
Amiata 1096 (through Harmonia Mundi)★★ £14.49
IN *Meeting of Angels*, Gregorian chant and North Indian classical music meet head-on, elegantly packaged in slim "paperback" format by the Italian record company, Amiata. It will be filed, I am assured, under Classical, and also under World.

There are musicologists who maintain that the origins of Gregorian modality are indeed to be found in the principles of the Indian *rāg*, and it would have been nice to have more specific information on musical provenance and less on the transcendental concept. But this hybrid performance, from the excellent mixed-voice Ensemble Gilles Binchois and from Ustad Nishat Khan (sitar) has a striking credibility and beauty in its own right.

At times the sitar meditates, improvises between individual unaccompanied lines of chant; at times it joins in, forging a fine filigree of improvised melody in and around the voices. The six high-register voices are stimulated to a particularly supple, open-throated form of chanting, with the voice "catching" in tiny melismatic microtones. There is a solo dawn *rāg* at the half-way point, followed by a radiant auroral *Alleluia*. Certainly worth the candle — and an incense stick or two.

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AN EXPLOSION of new works lit the Purcell Room on Tuesday — all concentrated in the Park Lane Group's first concert of the evening. This was a recital by Nicolas Hodges, a talented young pianist and champion of the music of Bill Hopkins.

Hopkins wrote his *Etudes en Serie* between 1965 and 1972, influenced by James Joyce and Samuel Beckett. Hodges gave a passionate first performance of his still unpublished third and final book of three studies: the outer two taking the form of tiny, formal isorhythmic constructs, and the central one spiralling outwards as a complex rondo of florid expression on simultaneous, yet contrasted, dynamic planes. This was the most striking work in the recital, but I also enjoyed the strong, spare serial language of Alwynne Pritchard's *Mesarch*, receiving its London premiere; and a six-minute fragment of a work in progress: Patrick Ozzard-Low's robust *Sonata*.

The evening's second recital focused on the players: Julia Staniforth, a bassoonist of stamina and flair; the perceptive pianist and chamber musician Sophia Rahman; and an accomplished young viola player called Ashan Pillai.

Here was a welcome opportunity to hear two more works by this year's PLG featured composer, Anthony Payne. Payne's music is fresh and engaging, yet challenging. It is open and honest, linguistically distinctive and sure.

The Enchantress Plays, an eight-minute piece for bassoon and piano, grows from little curled motifs which unfurl into the full leaf of song against a spare, impressionistic backdrop. Pillai's solo viola then recreated Payne's *Amid the Winds of Evening*, an abstract study demanding, and receiving, minute control and imaginative projection.

Pillai's viola, gently accompanied by Rahman, finally sang out the melody of Gavin Bryars's *The North Shore*, inspired by Whitby's landscape and a reflection on the obsession of Jules Verne's Captain Hatteras who, in his final madness, would walk only towards the North.

HILARY FINCH

Too little too late

Lin/Crossley
Wigmore Hall

FRENCH violin sonatas and other pieces were the substance of the programme given by Cho-Liang Lin and the pianist Paul Crossley, with whom he has recently recorded the identical assortment. Here they began with the Poulenc Sonata of 1943, written in memory of Lorca, which could benefit from a more vividly dramatic approach than the Taiwan violinist offered.

Indeed, for much of the recital's first part Lin seemed curiously disengaged from the music he played, toying with Ravel's *Berceuse on the name of Fauré* as if it were one of the composer's *Mother Goose* pieces, and coasting through Ravel's own mature G major Sonata with undernourished tone that left Crossley's more searching piano playing the dominant partner.

A similar balance continued after the interval in Debussy's Sonata too, although here the violinist began to make a more positive contribution; with altogether sharper character in the opening movement and an engaging sense of free fantasy in the middle movement. In the finale, however, which the composer described as "turning back on itself like a snake biting its own tail," the brisk violin writing was made to sound effortful.

The performers thereupon reverted to Ravel and the A minor Sonata he composed while still a student and which was posthumously discovered. A discursive work in one straggling movement, it sometimes sounds less like familiar Ravel than César Franck, but also discloses hints of the composer to come, and it was given an appropriately rhapsodic indulgence to exhibit its warmth of character. Finally, Lin was able to display an accomplished bravura in Ravel's *Tzigane*.

NOEL GOODWIN

[illegible]

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When Irish eyes are mocking

THEATRE

The Cripple of Inishmaan
Cottesloe

Cripple Billy's aunts sit in their stark grocery store, which is packed with little but tins of peas, and ruminate about his prospects. He'll never get kissed except by a blind girl, says one without the least unkindness. A blind or backward girl, replies the other with equal lack of rancour. They amiably agree that even the local slut, who would kiss a bald donkey, would draw the line at Cripple Billy. As for his eyes, "you'd see nicer on a goat", and, as for his personality, "all he does is go around staring at cows".

By the time Ruaidhri Conroy's Billy stumbles in, you are braced for a mix of the Hunchback of Notre Dame and the Phantom of the Opera. In fact, he is a pale, melancholy wisp unlucky enough to walk like a disjointed puppet.

But the build-up is characteristic of Martin McDonagh's wonderfully funny, troubling play. It takes us to the Aran Islands in 1934, some 27 years after Synge set *The Playboy of the Western World* there, and, again like Synge, shows us a tiny, cut-off community where the supposed norms of consideration and morality simply don't apply.

Like the trapped, embittered daughter in McDonagh's equally engrossing *Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Cripple Billy dreams of escape. The difference is that he makes it, at least for a bit. Robert Flaherty is shooting a film about sharks on another Aran Island, and Billy hitches a lift to the set, from where he is whisked to Hollywood for a screen test.

And are his dreams fulfilled? Is escape possible? All I will reply is that the 26-year-old McDonagh, though resident in London, is at root an Irish realist in the tradition of Synge, O'Casey, Friel and Billy Roche.

He is also a born storyteller with a precocious sense of dramatic structure. There are constant yet logical twists to the plot. When you feel he is getting sentimental, he hits you with a corrective shock. When you think you have caught him edging too near to aping Synge's language, you find the parody is deliberate. Even the ending, seemingly soft, is dark and highly provisional.

Ruaidhri Conroy (Billy), Aisling O'Sullivan (Helen) and Ray McBride (Johnnypateenmike) in Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan*

The dialogue fizzes, the characters crackle. Ray McBride's Johnnypateenmike is a one-man local newspaper who cadges food by spreading gossip and admits without guilt that he hopes to kill his alcoholic mother by glutting her with whisky. To the doctor's threat to show him the old girl's liver, he ripostes with "I can barely stand me mammy's outside, let alone her inside". But he is a weakling beside Aisling O'Sullivan's Slippy Helen, who takes money from feuding farmers for killing their foes' cats and geese and likes nothing better than mocking Cripple Billy.

"You shouldn't laugh at other people's misfortunes," says Billy at one point, and there is genuine puzzlement in the answer, "why not?" You cannot exactly accuse the characters of callousness or brutality, for it is ingrained to the point of offhandedness and there is seldom real malice in it. People come to Ireland because we're so friendly, says another member of Nicholas Hytner's fine cast. "Isn't it what we're famed for?" And he sees no irony in the claim.

Similarly teasing portraiture provoked riots in the Abbey Theatre and, much later, moved Raymond Williams to express surprise at "how little respect the Irish drama has for the Irish people". Time will tell if McDonagh's display of expatriate scepticism causes offence. All this Englishman can report is exhilaration at a tough, boisterous, gifted play.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Strong witness to the persecution

The White Devil
Barbican Pit

AS ELIOT reminds us, "Webster was much possessed by death/And saw the skull beneath the skin", and it is possibly in reference to these lines that director Gale Edwards and her designer Peter J. Davison hang a portrait of the lusty Duke of Brachiano in a commanding position between the arches of the rear wall. This is the picture his neglected wife kisses daily until observed by a hired murderer, who thereupon poisons the painted lips. At a certain moment in the drama the portrait is ripped from its frame like dead skin, uncovering a dark place packed with the bony relics of what Webster was much possessed by.

First seen last summer at Stratford in the Swan, Edwards's production is notably clear in its storytelling. Only when Flamineo, brother to the woman Brachiano desires, is feigning madness to avoid involvement in her temporary downfall, does the plot veer sideways into what seems an unnecessary complication. Since Webster makes Flamineo a confidant of Brachiano and his pander, it is hard to see how he contrives to remain poor and unadvanced at the ducal court.

The character does not declare, like Hamlet, "I lack promotion", but this is what grinds away at his moral being, vividly indicated in the look of hunger in Richard McCabe's performance. The hands he allows to wander over his sister's body suggest that he will never advance where he really wishes to go.

The plot is a straightforward tale of princely families revenging slights, marital entanglements bloodily removed and men blaming women. This last item surfaces over and over again: Vittoria, who we must presume to be the play's "white devil", is ferociously attacked by every one of the play's principal male characters. Philip Voss's Cardinal, during her trial on a trumped-up murder charge, smacks his lips with lascivious contempt for her easy morals.

Ray Fearon's confidently pugnacious Brachiano curses her supposed deception. Francisco, the Medici brother of Brachiano's murdered wife, fixes upon Vittoria as the source of evil. In this role Stephen Boxer gives another of his charismatic portraits of authority implacably pursuing prey: cold-eyed and, as the play hurtles to its conclusion, motionless within the storm.

Vittoria has only language to bring to her defence. Jane Gurnett's performance is always fascinating, but at her court trial she is supreme: perfectly poised, the corners of her mouth twitching in nervous mischief, she turns the tables, although vainly, upon her accuser. Only later in the play will her voice be able to boil with rage at the pervading misogyny within which she is trapped.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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CHANGING TIMES

Peter Ackroyd ventures out on a haunting, haunted journey through the streets and the history of London, and finds a city of endless literary invention

Behold now this vast city of refuge

Layers of history: traders at London's Smithfield market, chartered by the City of London in 1400; Bartholomew Fair was held here from 1123 until its *suppression for rowdiness and debauchery in 1855; Wat Tyler was executed* near by. Today the market sells 150,000 tonnes of meat a year

LIGHTS OUT FOR THE TERRITORY
By Iain Sinclair
Granta Books, £12.99
ISBN 1 86207 009 1

Recent work in cosmology and quantum physics seems to suggest that the "flow" of time and causation *do not really exist — that it is* possible, for example, for events of the "future" to determine the "past". Those of an imaginative disposition have *known this for some years*, of course, and Iain Sinclair is one of the leading exponents of what might be called the quantum novel. *Lights Out For the Territory* is not a work of fiction, however, but an act of imagination.

It is a book about London: it is, in other words, a book *about everything*. The London essay has a long history, encompassing Washington Irving and Charles Lamb, but in the hands of Sinclair it also *becomes a form of urban* necromancy. There are times when he resembles a revenant walking the *streets* of an ancient city, looking for runes or grimoires, but there are occasions when he also seems to exist in some unimaginable *future when strange territorial* configurations or patterns of energy shape the character and destiny of the city dwellers.

There are essays here on the clouds above the capital and on Rachel Whiteread's *House*, on London cinematography and London Gothic, on dogs and graffiti, on graveyards such as Bunhill Fields and the extraordinary Abney Park Cemetery off Stoke Newington Church Street which seem to harbour all the mystery and *bleakness of the city*. Both of the latter are resting places for dissenters, and London has always had a history of spiritual radicalism: the heady atmosphere around the graves, therefore, is all the city's own.

Iain Sinclair sets out to walk the bounds, as it were, and in the process to trace the sacred paths of a city which has for many hundreds of years been *suspected of containing* "occult lines of geometry". His first journey is down the fateful Kingsland Road, a voyage worthy of the pen of Conrad *himself: Sinclair walks* along this avenue of boarded shops and "squats" and cheap cafés, *yet from it he derives* such energy that his prose rises up in celebration.

These are all essays in praise of walking, and in *praise of that mood of aimless*ness and excitement which the streets of London seem to create — "drifting purposefully" as Sinclair puts it, at those moments when the alignment of buildings or the pattern of courtyards and alleys leads the walker ineluctably forward.

The pedestrian then mimics the movement of time in the city itself, not proceeding in any particular line but flowing *in many directions* like a lava stream from some unknown source of fire. There are parts of London, in Sinclair's book, where time even may be said to have come to an end.

That is why Sinclair's prose is that of a poet, each phrase charged like an incantation, but it is also the prose of a Londoner finding his inheritance. It is, after all, a city of books. Each chapter of this *survey has its own bibliogra*phy, as if he were walking through pages as well as streets.

The great aim of his prose is *not to discover or to describe* but to recollect: it is a dialogue with the dead in which only one can speak. His understanding of place is a refraction of all the memories associated with it and there are times when, like Huysmans, he sees the capital primarily as the invention of other writers.

He comes across the London Psychogeographical Association, *which advertises its* "35 Years of Non-Existence"; he roams the streets for evidence of the marvellous Mr Blake and sometimes treats London as some second Atlantis only recently recovered from the water which provides its own "theatre of obelisks and pyramids, signs, symbols, *prompts, whispers. The lovely* lies that take you out into the light. That bless each and *every pilgrimage*."

As a stylist he is incomparable: he is the De Quincey of contemporary English letters, scathing and sometimes savage, *fierce and even contemp*tuous, but always with an exultant humour that might belong to some classical masked actor.

Some of his themes are familiar. The interest in gangland "villains" goes further back than Colin MacInnes to Defoe and Ned Ward's *London Spy, but Sinclair's* account of Ronald Kray's funeral invokes primeval fears only to mingle them with the farce of that dead man's *Easter parade. It is* a wonderful performance by Sinclair, deliberately histrionic and yet *desperately plausible*, like some frantic tale shouted out by a crazed pedestrian. Who else would place Frankie Fraser's autobiography, *Mad Frank*, beside Robert Graves's *The White Goddess*?

*Londoners have always ad*mired, or been fascinated by, criminals because they repre*sent an alternative source of* power — power other than that of the commercial and political "establishment" that has turned London into such a dark city.

The luminaries of London are always trying to find a way *of confronting that darkness* on their own terms; hence the perennial interest in occultism or antiquarianism which, in the Capital, have generally *been connected. The names of* Dee, of Tradescant, of *Ashmole, and of Fludd* resound throughout this Baedeker of London's haunted past.

There are occasions, however, when Sinclair's own interest in such matters threatens to overburden his narrative journeys with too much *significance. He is like some* golden dustman sifting the heaps of St Pancras for ever *more* relics or ruins, and thereby he runs the danger of being caught in the ashes; his essays then become so fraught with coincidences and corre*spondences and connections* that the reader may at times find that it is difficult to follow the author's thread into the centre of the London labyrinth.

He also has an unnerving *habit of turning his friends or* acquaintances into fictional creatures, but then all great *fabulists will wish* to extend their range to the living as well as to the dead. And that is indeed Iain Sinclair's project, creating out of the world of time a city that has a *manifold* and perpetual presence. The mysterious photographs of Marc Atkins complete the process.

Intrigue in the last days of Weimar

"The New Attack": a Berlin magazine's satire of the Nazi party's soliciting funds in 1932

Daniel Johnson

HITLER'S THIRTY DAYS TO POWER
January 1933
By Henry Ashby Turner, Jr
Bloomsbury, £16.99
ISBN 0 7475 3004 1

How did the "Austrian corporal", as *President Hindenburg* contemptuously referred to Adolf Hitler, become the last Chancellor of the Weimar Republic and thereby also Führer of the Third Reich? Was it cock-up or conspiracy? Henry Ashby Turner's an*swer in this racy but deeply* serious book is: both. The story reads like a thriller, full of clandestine meetings and backstairs intrigue, in which a *handful of individuals* engaged in high politics, not impersonal forces, bring about the catastrophe.

Consequently Turner has an eye for telling anecdotes. *On New Year's Day* 1933, as Hitler fantasised to the sound of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*. Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher enjoyed an Offenbach *operetta: one singer ad* libbed: "We'll form a Cabinet and dissolve the Reichstag!"

Hitler would never have been appointed without an elaborate plot to deceive the Head of State, Hindenburg, by those who were closest to *him: his prickly son Oskar*, his saturnine Chief of Staff Meissner, and his vain favourite Franz von Papen. But the plot went wrong: the members of this camarilla also deceived themselves *about Hitler's intentions. Hin*denburg was not senile, but he too was disloyal. Having dismissed one Chancellor after another he finally betrayed *his oath to the Republic* by handing power to Hitler, who had sworn to destroy what the Nazis (anticipating the 1960s) always called "the system". And the only man who just might have thwarted this inept conspiracy, General Schleicher, *emerges not as he* is conventionally portrayed — the spider at the centre of the web of spies — but as a self-deluding dilettante.

It is in Turner's analysis of Schleicher's brief Chancellor*ship — he lasted less than two* months in office — that the real originality of the book lies. *This shadowy figure kept* his own counsel and his motives have remained a mystery. He was one of the Republic's many career soldiers who found themselves in politics only because there was a vacuum at the top. "Too bad that I have no propensity to megalomania," Schleicher wrote: *he was not hungry* enough for power to be a match for "one of the greatest demagogues of all time", as Hitler's embittered former comrade General Ludendorff described him.

Historians have generally assumed that Schleicher's plan was to split the Nazi *party by offering* to make the leader of its "socialist" wing, Gregor Strasser, his deputy. Turner disproves this theory, showing that Schleicher hoped to win support from the *whole Nazi movement, still* the largest party. Schleicher's threat was to obtain a dissolu*tion of the Reichstag from the* President, followed by an election in which the Nazis would do badly; his aim was to gain time for his Keynesian *job creation package to take* effect. (Unemployment peaked just as he lost power, and Hitler took the credit.) Though he was able to see off *Strasser's challenge*. Hitler's support was deteriorating fast, and his insistence on the Chancellorship as the price of participation in government was unpopular. Another month or two and Hitler might have been forced to carry out his threat to "finish myself off with a pistol in three minutes" — 12 years before he in fact did.

What finished Schleicher off was the treachery of his friend and creature, the former Chancellor Papen. With the help of the President's entourage and one of his Junker neighbours in East Prussia, Papen persuaded Hindenburg that *Hitler could* be controlled by a conservative, Catholic and military *coalition Cabinet with broad* parliamentary support. Big business played no significant role, according to Turner, who has argued this thesis ferociously *in the past. The only* major capitalist in the conspiracy, the press baron and *Nationalist* leader Alfred Hugenberg, was prevailed upon to drop his objection to a new election by a simple ruse: Hindenburg, Meissner announced, *could not* be kept waiting any longer.

During the last days before January 30, rumours circulated of a coup led by Schleicher and his friend, the Army's Chief of *Staff Hammerstein*. Fear helped to force Hindenburg's hand. But what if the *Reichswehr had taken over?* Reflecting on contingency and culpability, Turner concludes that a military putsch was the logical outcome of the *unforeseen constitutional im*passe in which the Republic found *itself*, with incompatible extremist parties of Right and Left able to deprive any *government of a majority*.

Schleicher would certainly have been a more benign dictator than Hitler: "What Germany needs today is a strong man," he had boasted. But this "question mark with the epaulettes of a general", as Trotsky called him, lacked the nerve to insist on a military solution at the outset of his *spell in office*, when Hindenburg might have agreed. *Schleicher's "eerie fatalism"* was itself fatal to *himself* and *his wife (they were murdered* a year later on the Night of the Long Knives), to Germany, *and to the world*.

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Dangerous fools and immoral lives

Russell Celyn Jones

THE MISSIONARY'S WIFE
By Tim Jeal
Little, Brown, £15.99
ISBN 0 316 88113 9

The Missionary's Wife is an historical saga set in 1896 but fits quite re*spectably alongside the works* of Eliot and Meredith. Certainly, when Jeal's heroine Clara Musson, seeking a husband, chooses virtue over class, there is a sense of déja vu, but it is curious why a serious author like Jeal would *bother to reconstruct the mor*al climate of a Victorian novel when you can read the originals. It is as though we are implicitly being asked to suspend Post-Modern disbelief.

That said, Jeal's narrative *is* exciting and exact, even if the outcome is preordained — "When the white man came here, he had the Bible and the black man had the land. Now the black man has the Bible and the white man has the *land*."

Clara marries Robert Haslam, an uncompromising missionary whom she meets while he is touring through her Midlands hometown. She follows him to south central Africa where Haslam has spent the *previous* ten years *doggedly trying to convert* Chief Mponda to Christianity.

Haslam understands Africans well but insists that Chief Mponda divorces all his wives except the first as a condition of his baptism. But an African woman without a husband starves. Clara alone is alert to the potential tragedy and campaigns, in vain, on behalf of Mponda's youngest wife, Herida.

Haslam's evangelism is fat*ed to have far more* dire consequences for Herida and her father Nashu, the local witchdoctor, *murders some of* the newly converted tribe. He plots to kill both Haslam and Mponda before Christianity disenfranchises him. But Haslam turns his assassins into converts. Mponda flees his kraal and joins the "rebels" fighting a civil war against the *colonists*.

A detachment of British troops are deployed to the area. They face annihilation unless their commanding officer, Francis Vaughan, with Haslam's assistance can persuade Mponda to surrender. *But the two men mistrust each* other. Soldiers lead "immoral lives". Missionaries are "dangerous fools".

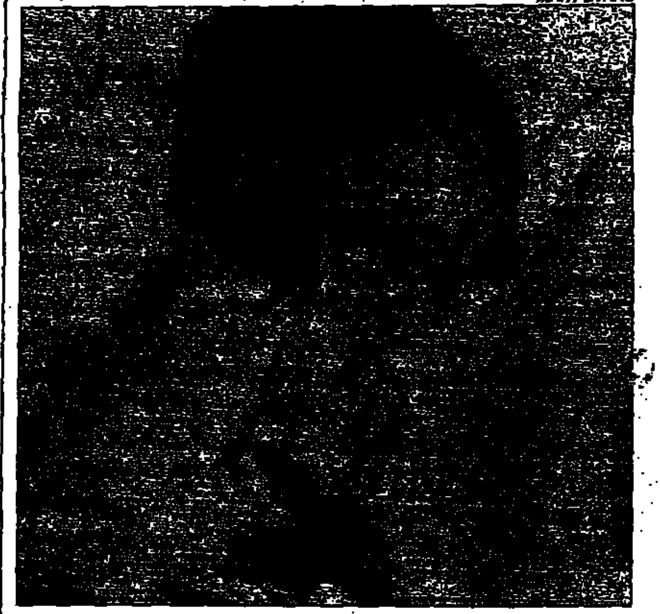
The descriptions of the African landscape are luminous and tactile; details of military campaigns and strategies, on both sides, are authentic without being technically overbearing. And in Haslam, Jeal has a remarkable creation. So too thinks Mponda, who puts his faith in the man more than in the abstract Christ he represents. This is essentially Jeal's theme. The tribe only see *the missionary's heroics, while* we see his crown of thorns slip over his eyes.

Haslam is too pure to love, insisting on his conjugal rights each night. Clara's loss of faith is accompanied by a concomitant loss of love. She falls for the more sensual Vaughan *who has no faith and is thus* prone to human fallibility. Her disagreements with him over the ethics of war threaten to be as love-breaking as her disagreements with Haslam over religion.

It is all very well done, even if certain questions remain unanswered. For instance, what are we meant to read into the exact 100-year *breach* between setting and original United States publication of *The Missionary's Wife*? From a late 20th-century vantage point Jeal seems to be re-evaluating Victorian virtue as an overrated commodity. But what of contemporary virtues? Barry Unsworth in *Sacred Hunger* at least made allusions to contemporary politics by slipping into his 18th-century narrative a few very *modern phrases. Slave traders* are among us still. But if you like your historical fiction told *straight up, then you* would be hard pressed to find a better novel than this.

Not quite equal, even in death

MARY EVANS



Preserved for ever: memorial photograph, circa 1870

Christopher Hawtree

DEATH IN THE VICTORIAN FAMILY
By Pat Jalland
OUP, £25
ISBN 0 19 820188 5

Samuel Beckett was much possessed by *death*. Samuel Beckett, that is, the provincial surgeon and author of *My First Grief*. This 1854 *memoir of a sister* drew upon several hundred deathbed scenes to assure Christians that slow consumption is better than fever, insan*ity or sudden accident*. There was even joy in "the calm, heavenly, and truly edifying bearing and conversation of a pious young person slowly *wearing away under* pulmonary consumption".

Yeats was to say that man has created death, and there is now certainly a boom in death *studies. In the wake of Phi*lippe Ariès, there are the monumental works by John McManners and Ruth Richardson. These are the contem*porary equivalent of all those* threnodic, therapeutic memorial volumes which animate yet another such study, *Death in the Victorian Family*. Elegantly produced, baldy indexed, Pat Jalland's substantial volume is almost as fascinating *as it is repetitive*.

Numerous times one is told that Archibald Tait, the future Archbishop of Canterbury, lost five daughters to an epidemic of scarlet fever in Carlisle during 1856. Malign fate was not appeased, for, on *gaining high office*, Tait was blighted by the death of his wife and son. A memorial volume *satisfied* a need in himself and many others — royalties of £1,547-4s-5d had accumulated *within the first* twelve months. Such awkward prosperity was dwarfed by that of Courtlauds. The *firm* boomed, for not only was there demand for obligatory widow's weeds but superstition made it unlucky to keep each supply of crape in the house too long.

Names recur as each chap*ter discusses separate topics*, and many such details enliven the tracing of changes in attitudes to death. More could be made of agnostic Sir Leslie Stephen, whose *Mausoleum Book* exudes chronic grief. *Professor Jalland shows* that this was rare, even if few were so bold as Oscar Wilde's Lady Harbury in "living entirely for pleasure now . . . her hair has turned *quite* gold from grief". From its beginnings in pervasive evangelism, this turbulent *era found its causal conclusion* in the craters of the Somme.

In drawing on so many family archives, the effect is *How the Rich Die*. Here is Lady Dilke, *whose terror of* being buried alive galvanised the cremation movement. Ada Lady *Lovelace* shared that fear, but took the risk to lie *beside her father*, Lord Byron. Suicide Blanch Cripps was content that her head should *rest on a Bible, her feet on a* Shakespeare.

Just as wreaths replaced pomp, so Disraeli preferred a funeral at Hughenden to the Duke of Wellington's State ceremony. *Protocol* prevented the Queen's attending and, oddly, Gladstone was too busy, but among the onlookers was the undergraduate John Meade Falkner. He and his low-*ranking* ancestors find no place here but death stalked their every move and would haunt his *eminent life. Among* his papers is a photograph of a four-year-old brother dead in his coffin. This was Victorian custom, and no less haunting to a biographer — it could so easily have been the author of *Moonfleet* himself.

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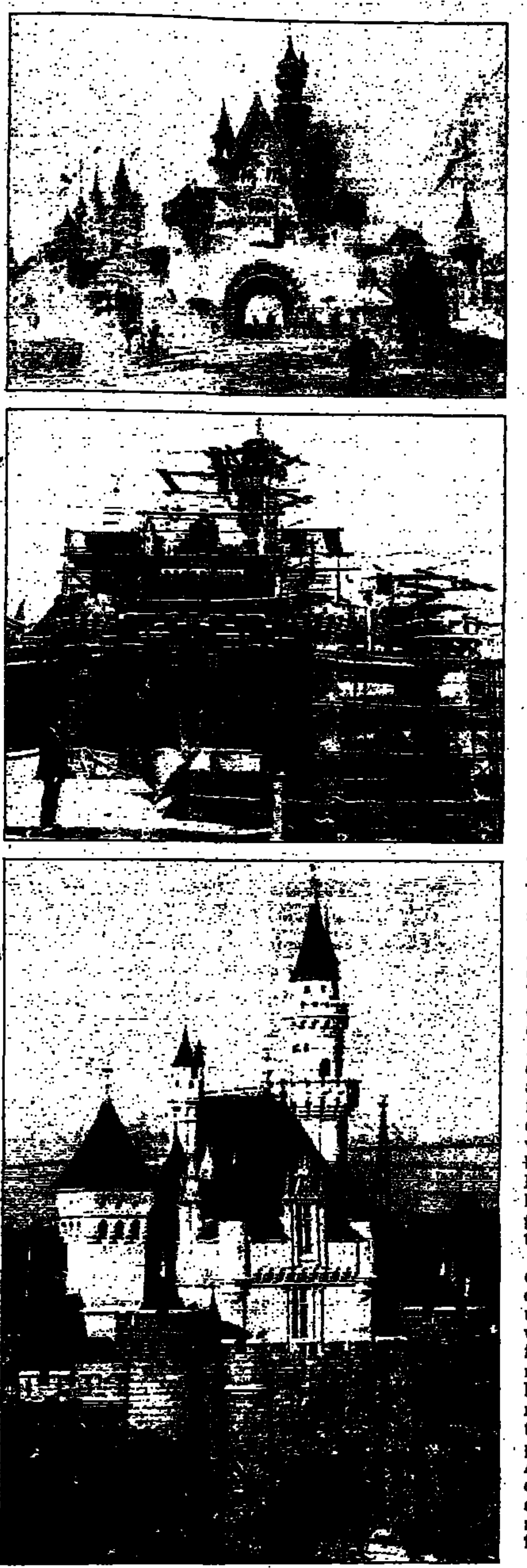
Just below the dignity of history


The structure of an imaginary golden age: Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty Castle, in development and as it stands, from *Building a Dream: The Art of Disney Architecture* by Beth Dunlop (Abrams, £30)

Roger Scruton

examines the marketing of tradition

THE HERITAGE CRUSADE
And the Spoils of History
By David Lowenthal
Viking, £25
ISBN 0 670 84257 5

All over the globe, the heritage industry is taking off, manufacturing for the uprooted peoples of the modern world flattering images of the antiquity and legitimacy of their habits, governments and ways of life. Unlike most modern industries, heritage is not a British invention — the French, who were first to take a canon to their past, were also the first to pick up the pieces and begin to polish them. They have had an office for historic monuments since early in the last century, and its first commissioner, Prosper Merimée, invented, in the story and character of Carmen, a sizeable chunk of the Spanish heritage, leaving his compatriot Georges Bizet to finish the job.

The invention of heritage is a fascinating story, and David Lowenthal tells it with vigour, style and a Balzacian relish for detail. From the National Trust to the memoribilia-craze of Elvis-fans; from the invented folklore of Brittany and Finland to the mythopoeic doctrines of "Black history" and the Stonehenge druids; from the Kansan curator who exhibits 15 kinds of barbed wire and $3,000 worth of buttons, to the 85,000 "hobby Indians" in Germany and Poland — all of them are gathered up with a true collector's instinct.

Indeed, Lowenthal is an example of the craze that he documents, erecting a museum in words that will testify to what we were, should any future generation care to remember us. His racy style keeps us constantly on the move, and we are hurried past the trophies by a tour-guide's patter of ideas and anecdotes. At the end of the journey, emerging into the sun of your daily prejudice, your natural reaction is "Cor, makes you fink."

But what, exactly, should we think? Lowenthal's examples are so diverse, and range so freely between the nation-forming myths that have made modern history, and the local crazes that have enabled people to live in it, that it becomes unclear, after a while, whether there is any single thing that he means by "heritage". He mentions Plato's penetrating idea of the Noble Lie — the myth of origins which would secure allegiance to the city-state, but only after it had been passed down the generations and become immune from criticism.

If that is heritage, then it is surely a very different thing from the time-capsules of Disneyland, or the carefully preserved shrines to a vanished past which are the matter of the tourist trade. As Lowenthal shows, it is the second kind of heritage that appeals to modern people, most of whom have lost all knowledge of their national stories, heroes and sacred texts, and wander bewildered in a moral landscape that is remade from day to day.

The important thing about heritage, in these conditions, is that it is manufactured. Heritage must sell, and this means that it must be packaged, advertised and adapted to the changing tastes of consumers. Lowenthal takes great delight in displaying this process, and introduces an interesting question. Why is it that we now refer always to *our* heritage, rather than to *my* inheritance?

Lowenthal has no answer, but points acutely to the difference between the aristocrat who bequeaths name, title and land to his offspring, and claims the same from his forebears, and the heritage industry which has more or less extinguished his rights by taking charge of them. The National Trust preserves the aristocrat's house (and usually the poor old boy himself in some unvisited wing of it) as part of *our* heritage, and his last ditch attempts to save his inheritance by selling off the pictures to an American museum are denounced as a violation of *our* sacred rights.

Then another and yet more interesting question arises, and Lowenthal devotes thoughtful pages to it. What is the difference between heritage and history? If heritage is a matter of manufacturing the past for popular consumption, how do we know that history is not another product of the heritage industry?

This question is of considerable urgency now that school history has been debunked (often with scant respect for the truth) as a Noble Lie. As Lowenthal points out, the critics of school history are typically in the business of substituting new lies for old. But the true historian, he adds, has another task: not to give us all the facts, for he is bound to select among them, but to look on the facts impartially, and in a spirit of collaborative enquiry. This habit of impartial and collective truth-seeking is precisely what the heritage industry puts at risk. Lowenthal's wise reflections come too late, of course; the Owl of Minerva spreads its wings only with the gathering of the dusk.

My one major criticism of this lively book is that the distinction between heritage and history does not exhaust our attitudes to the past. The country house, before the Trust takes over, is a "live tradition": a focus of social and economic activity that renews iteself through change. Tradition is neither history nor heritage, but the past living in the present. It is our traditions, and not our heritage, that we should value — and it is these that are most truly threatened by the uncritical pursuit of "progress".

The King James Bible was once a live tradition: the words were natural to us, repeated in church and used in daily life for our solemn thoughts and feelings. Now it is part of heritage (though not part of the history curriculum). The common law is still a live tradition, and the greatest guarantee of our national sovereignty. But soon it will be extinguished by the nationalist edicts of the European Courts, and a thread of the nation's identity will be broken. As with other historians who have debunked our myths about the past, Lowenthal overlooks such examples, even though they illustrate what is healthy and necessary in our respect for the dead.

Creating the infinite I am

BRIDGEMAN
Absorbed in another self: *Girl reading a letter at an open window* by Vermeer (1632-75)

Lesley Chamberlain

REWRITING THE SELF
Histories from the Renaissance to the Present
Edited by Roy Porter
Routledge, £45
ISBN 0 415 14279 2

VERMEER'S painting of a young woman reading a letter arguably tells us that the self is beautiful. It is beauty of a high, moral kind because the self constitutes our engagement with the world. Since Locke and thanks to him, and thanks to Freud, we have come to realise that the self is more than consciousness, more than memory, and morally as important to us as was for a Greek his Platonic soul.

Unlike the Greek, the sphere in which the modern self is active looks busy and irregular. Influences rain upon us, and yet the self still seems to be more than the assembled detritus after the storm. We have the kind of self-reflection, and capacity for self-realisation, which Fichte and Hegel put at the centre of their world views. By our actions we sort out what in us is autonomous from what is determined.

Roger Smith momentarily lost me in the third of these 16 essays when he described the letter reader as "self-absorbed". The truth is surely that, far from being in that unattractive condition of being engrossed in herself, this woman is completely taken up in the reality of another. The self allows us to reach "out" as well as "in" to appreciate the world.

As Terry Eagleton points out, we are especially advised by Wittgenstein to avoid manufacturing such a fantastic spiritual geography as would chart an internal versus an external world. So we look back over the various languages four centuries of religion, philosophy, literature, psychology and latterly cultural studies have provided, uncommitted but fascinated. Not all the contributors to this collection would agree, but it seems clear to me if there has been progress then we have just a rounder understanding of something essentially elusive, our inability to capture it not painful, since we live it.

The earlier 18th century thought that the self amounted to acting a part. It courted the kind of insincerity Rousseau existed to overthrow. Out of the same world came the self as sensibility. The idea was to cultivate the feelings we should have and let novels encourage us.

The 19th century, by taking this inwardness out of the feminine boudoir and giving it a masculine identity out on the heath, put muscular sentimentality at the centre of the Romantic project to define the self in nature. Roger *Cardinal apologises for the* elitism of his Romantic travellers but rightly admires their insistence on being "physically fit and metaphysically alert".

TWO significant appurtenances of the story of the self figure here: the road to be tramped, and the energy, indeed joy, we muster to tramp it. These studies come with apologies for Eurocentricity. They suggest it has been difficult to have a female Self. They show hardly anyone working in the field today considers relevant the concept of personal responsibility, which made a definition of the self necessary for Locke.

Too many pages reduce instead to lists of impingeing cultural artefacts. But then Eagleton's *Self-Undoing Subjects* situates Freud, Wittgenstein and the self-defeating Post-Modern contribution all within a great Western Tradition. If you buy this book you will pick up this and that along the way to help you think about your Self, but nothing compares to the worth of this beautiful final essay.

Hypnotic mistress of the art of passionate restraint

Tania Glyde

ORIGINAL BLISS
By A. L. Kennedy
Cape, £14.99
ISBN 0 224 04435

Original Bliss is A. L. Kennedy's fifth work of fiction in barely more years. There are ten short stories and a novella from which the book takes its title.

The blurb writers at Jonathan Cape continue to insist that her books are about sex. Since sex as a subject comes only a short way below heroin on the shifts-copies scale they may, in fact, have parity — I can see why they do it. However, I think they are doing this author a peculiar disservice. Sex is with us always: art is full of it. Despite the fact that sexuality is explored in every one of the stories here, as a *raison d'être* it cancels itself out.

A. L. Kennedy is a master of the art of enclosure, corralling her characters in lucid pens of thought. She writes with great depth about isolation, about people who keep a part of themselves back, whether by destiny or by choice. Of course, this does not necessarily make them happy, or content. But then this author does not pretend to a joyous aesthetic. *Original Bliss* explores the autonomy of privacy, of physical needs and how they coincide or clash with the often very unhappy experience of self.

BRIAN TAUR
Kennedy: prose that ritualises personal relationships

Sometimes her approach is frustrating. In *Groucho's Moustache*, the character states early on "I do so love to trust. I've passed many jolly years growing used to being made this way." From this, I expected an ironic study of power. Instead the story is more personal: "Receiver and Deceiver, both uncovered, we recognise each other instinctively, like lemmings rushing together so they can free-fall holding paws."

This ritualisation of personal relationships strongly pervades her work. Personally, I always find it suspect: if you ritualise a situation you can avoid confronting the true imbalance of power within it: although you may be saving your own sanity in the process.

The novella, *Original Bliss*, is a study of redemption. It is about a woman, trapped in a violent marriage and mourning the loss of her religious faith, who meets a shamanic professor with a dirty secret. Full of intense, stilted communication, the story seemed to get longer the nearer I got to finishing it.

This is not to deny the author's skill, but rather to admit to the extreme *claustrophobia of the situation*. This is despite the slightly unbelievable characters and the aridity of their presentation. But then, A. L. Kennedy's style is particularly self-referential. When the professor takes Mrs Brindle to see some awful Finnish modern dance, he justifies it by saying that "It always helps me to think. I have no idea why and not the vaguest desire to find out. I go with the flow and watch." And that is the effect of A. L. Kennedy's style. Purity of thought and a sharp, acrid vocabulary combine to hypnotise the reader into believing her. There is a great deal to think about here.

SATURDAY BOOKS
In the Directory: Maureen Owen enters the Discworld to meet Terry Pratchett
Derwent May is enchanted by *The French*

Poems to keep the barbarians at bay

Michael Hofmann

COLLECTED POEMS
By John Fuller
Chatto & Windus, £20
ISBN 0 7011 6612 6

EXPANDED UNIVERSES
By Christopher Reid
Faber, £6.99
ISBN 0 571 17924 X

John Fuller and Christopher Reid are both on the ten-strong shortlist for the T. S. Eliot Prize, to be announced this Monday. Both purvey the sort of wit and tidiness that — whatever the final result — are so highly prized in English poetry today.

Fuller, the son of the poet Roy Fuller, is a don at Oxford. A novelist and short story writer as well as a fluent and prolific poet, sometime collaborator with James Fenton (on the delicious skit *Partingtime Hall*), and mentor and friend to a clutch of younger writers — Bernard O'Donoghue, Mick Imlah and Alan Hollinghurst among them — he is a significant presence in British letters who, single-handedly, has made Oxford into a vibrant and nurturing place. His *Collected Poems* are published in his 60th year.

Fuller has been a skilful and organised poet since his teens. This substantial volume shows the presiding influence of Auden, as well as reflecting a number of passing styles: the Movement in the Fifties, the *imagistic vignettes of the Review* school, the Martianism of the Seventies. Formally, he offers huge variety, a whole department store of poetry: from haiku elegies and a sonnet in disyllables, to *terza rima*, quartets and quintets, to satirical epistles and Browningesque tales, to Classical hexameters and a verse novel, *The Illusionists*, in the Pushkin stanza (chucking in three acrostics as it goes) to other things I wouldn't even know the name of.

He is the author of a much-loved *Valentine* ("I like it when you tilt your cheek up./ I like the way you nod and hold a teacup./ I like your legs when you unwind them./ Even in trousers I don't mind them."), a suite on the shires of England, poems on chess and music, and long meditations on landscape and astronomy. Like Auden, he has his *longueurs*. *The Illusionists* shows him not quite able to pull off a narrative, more a series of wittily embellished tangents.

Still, you never have to go for very many lines without some wit or felicity or spark of enchantment, whether in rhyme (he is probably the best polysyllabic rhymer since Byron), or diction (someone doing martial arts in Gerrards Cross becomes "a Black belt in the green belt") or idea (say, "the curable romantic"). His facility and versatility resist easy description. You expect — perhaps — a poem like *Amazing*, on pornography ("Such drooping and dragging,/ Such feinting and flagging,/ Such sighing and sagging/ Saw I never."), but not *Metropolitan*, with its cunningly proverbial alien idiom: "The centre of cities move westwards; the centre of the mother of cities has disappeared./ *North the great cat, East the great water, South the great fire, West the great arrow*."

Christopher Reid, whose fifth book *Expanded Universes* is, seems more specialised and intriguing, less of a challenge to the reviewer with taxonomy on his mind. One of the early "Martians", he has been gradually disarming himself and his readers, ever since his 1985 book of Eastern European "translations," the wonderful *Katerina Brac*.

The ground-note of *Expanded Universes* is a kind of bemused acquiescence. The characteristically clever and mocking pretense is that Reid's speakers are not hurt into articulacy (as Auden describes), but are surprised into it, having it dragged out of them by a wickedly eccentric world. His voice in these short and pellucid and beautifully written things is the one Cavafy discovered in his famous poem, *Waiting for the Barbarians* ("What are we waiting for, assembled in the forum?/ The barbarians are due here today.") The shortest poem in the book goes: "One dog barks/ at hot-air balloons/ whenever they approach;/ another at night moths./ They are guarding the premises."

Clinchingly, it is called *Home. For all his air of naive* musing, the speaker still apprehends a world in which all the pieces are cogs, and the bite of these cogs is what passes for meaning.

The venturesome thing about *Expanded Universes* is how much aggression and — albeit *ritualised — violence Reid has* worked into these seemingly harmless and weightless pieces. Some of the poems witness it ("one mite hitting another/ or shoving or tripping or wrestling/ him or her over,/ the better to plant a good kick"), others (*Nature, Men Against Trees*) praise it, others again seem to enact it in their spiky rhymes. In the book's *tour de force*, *Two Dogs on a Pub Roof*, Reid rhymes for a hundred lines on the one sound of barking. It is as though he has taken the work of Hobbes, and made it into *papier maché* decorations.

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CRICKET: COMMITMENT THE COMMON FACTOR AS SOUTH AFRICA BASK IN GLORY AND ENGLAND LOOK TO RIGHT SOME WRONGS

Time ripe for Caddick to take up his option

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN AUCKLAND

AFTER a day in the nets at Eden Park, England's cricketers prepared for the journey to New Plymouth, where they meet a New Zealand Cricket Academy team tomorrow in a one-day game. It may be a match of little consequence but, for some of the players who have felt undervalued on this two-pronged tour, it means making a fresh start.

Everybody on this tour is talking about making a fresh start, and with good reason, but nobody is looking forward to the second part of the winter with more enthusiasm than Andrew Caddick, Somerset's talented fast-medium seam bowler, who was overlooked during the two months in Zimbabwe. Caddick was born in Christchurch to English parents and will meet them for the first time in two years when the party goes to Palmerston North next week for a four-day game against an Invitation XI.

He is certain to play against the academy students, along with Dominic Cork, who is beginning his winter's work after a lengthy rest, and Jack Russell. Phil Tufnell, his spinning fingers itching after a period of inactivity, is also likely to play. Two men who will not be involved are Robert Croft, who hurt a toe batting in the nets, and Graham Thorpe, who has a calf strain.

Caddick's Test career has been something of a stop-start affair, stopped most recently when he was dropped for the final Test of last summer, against Pakistan at the Oval, after bowling tolerably well at Headingley, where England failed to make the most of some friendly conditions for swing and seam bowling. England preferred Chris Lewis to him in that final Test, and it cannot be said that the decision was justified.

Caddick is not the easiest chap to rub along with and cuts a slightly uncomfortable figure in an England party that is in much better heart than people in England might realise. To put it mildly, he has much to play for in the next two months. A bolder interpretation might be that he is playing for his Test future. Any repetition of his feckless performance in Zimbabwe and he can return to Taunton, or Christchurch, on extended leave.

Caddick has never denied that he made his decision to side with England six years ago for opportunistic reasons, and he said as much again yesterday. It was a "career move", and players who admit to those have to try doubly hard to gain the confidence of team-mates and those who pick teams. Caddick has yet to do that and he is quickly running out of opportunities.

"All I can do is get stuck in," he said during the two-part net session yesterday. "I have a lot to prove and I will be steaming in. Now that Dominic Cork is around, there will be a lot of competition for places in the Test side."

David Lloyd, the coach, picked up on that theme. "The challenge is there for Caddick and others to impress," he said. "There was a lifting of spirits that needed to be done [after Zimbabwe] and we must now turn criticism of our cricket into some favourable reports, and the players can do that only on the field."

Michael Atherton, for one, will be happy to start playing proper cricket again after the nonsense at the Ericsson Stadium on Tuesday night, when he was caught by a woman cricketer, one Emily Drumm, in a footling benefit match for Danny Morrison. Though he was not saying so yesterday, at least not publicly, Atherton was appalled at the coverage given in English newspapers to this unremarkable incident in a ridiculous beer match. So were his team-mates, one of whom made his opinions quite plain to journalists.

Perhaps it is time to admit that, oft-times, we journalists do not give the players the support that they deserve, or cloud over what happens and thus present a misleading image. The tone was set this week when Michael Nicholson, the ITN reporter, blundered into the opening day press conference as though he were dealing with a tale of international proportions, and made a fool of himself. It shocked the New Zealanders, and succeeded only in making the England players more wary of the cricket journalists who are here to cover the cricket; that is, proper cricket.

The players deserve better. My word, how we hammer them at times for the sake of a cheap story.

ROSS SETFORD

Caddick in full flight during England's net practice at Eden Park yesterday

Bacher salutes a team's return to true greatness

JOHN WOODCOCK

compares great sides from different eras

Dr Ali Bacher, the custodian of South African cricket, has described the Test match in which India were beaten here in Cape Town earlier this week as "the most joyous in South Africa's cricket history". The one he picks out to go alongside is the Durban Test of 1970, when Graeme Pollock and Barry Richards, their two finest postwar batsmen, had their one matchless hour together and Australia were beaten by an innings.

Having been fortunate enough to see both matches, I can say that the batting of Pollock and Richards at Kingsmead and of Tendulkar and Azharuddin on Saturday was pretty well on a par, albeit richly different in style. The greater partnership, though, was unquestionably the one between the Indians: it was made against much better bowling and came when South Africa seemed in total control.

Bacher's appraisal was not based on cricket alone; there was an emotional element to it as well. When Pollock and Richards were crashing Alan Connolly and John Gleeson through the covers 27 years ago, Nelson Mandela was incarcerated on Robben Island; when Tendulkar and Azharuddin were flicking the South African bowlers off their toes last Saturday, Mandela came to the ground and brought joy and conciliation with him. Bacher is right in more ways than one... last weekend's was a particularly "joyous match".

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, considers the difference between his side and India is South Africa's greater strength in their second-line fast bowling. It is not that, though, which has taken them into the top rank of Test sides.

Apart from Allan Donald, they bowl with nothing like the venom of the West Indies teams of the 1980s, and Donald pitches the ball up much more than they did. He can still bowl the occasional very fast one, but what is so impressive about him now is how he has increased his range, rather as Ray Lindwall, Richard Hadlee and Malcolm Marshall did when they, too, got to 30 and needed to slow down. Not everyone can do it. Fred Trueman, for example, Brian Statham and Frank Tyson, all found it difficult.

Donald apart, Cronje's side lacks the absolute top-notchers that South Africa had in 1970, though you may be sure that will very soon change. In the same side as Pollock and Richards were Eddie Barlow and Mike Procter, two great all-rounders, and Clive Rice and Vintcent van der Bijl were just coming through.

Today, there are two or three young batsmen of outstanding promise waiting for their chance, much as there are in Australia. Some are at least as good as those in the Test side; but the South African in possession of a place hangs on to it for dear life.

As I write this, looking out over a playing field where they are practising rugby and cricket at the end of another glorious Cape day, the sounds coming through the window are of total commitment. That is why South Africa will never want for outdoor sportsmen. They have the fire and the will and the physique, and, almost above all, they have the climate.

Man for man, the batsmen in their present Test side are certainly no more naturally gifted than England's. England's have all scored Test centuries since Cronje last got one, and in Adam Bacher, nephew of the doctor, South Africa have a relative tyro at No 3. On paper England's first five are at least as good.

Then the difference starts. South Africa have all-rounders in the next four places to give their side its balance — the imperturbable McMillan, the reliable Richardson, the flaming Pollock and the lusty Klusener.

That McMillan was named as man of the match in this last Test marks him out as an exceptional cricketer, even at the age of 33. Tendulkar's 169 was just about the perfect innings and his partnership with Azharuddin just about the perfect partnership; Klusener scored what is thought to be South Africa's fastest Test hundred, and yet no one complained when McMillan won the award for his bowling and catching. Perhaps, on second thoughts, he is as good as Barlow.

But it is the last two in Cronje's side — Donald and Adams — who break the mould. Australia's introduction to Adams when they come here in a few weeks' time will be fascinating and crucial. Although he has been about for more than a year now, the Australians have never come up against Adams. Videos are no substitute for that and Western Province are unlikely to include him when they play the Australians in a three-day match before the first Test.

Adams is not 20 yet, but he has taken uninhibitedly to Test cricket and remains a very tricky, decidedly disconcerting bowler. He bubbles and laughs and when he takes a wicket he does a handspring. The Australians will wonder what to make of that.

With Adams on one side and Warne on the other, Ali Bacher may soon have another to add to his collection of "joyous matches".

Bacher: historic win

BOWLS

Henry pays heavy price for late night

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

THE names of Jeremy Henry and Gary McCloy, two of Ireland's key players, were missing when the Ireland team for the home international series at Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, from March 12-14, was announced yesterday.

It is understood that their omission is the tip of an iceberg. As many as ten members of last winter's Ireland side, it seems, were omitted from this winter's 40-man international panel for disciplinary reasons and played no part in the trials process.

The ten are alleged to have stayed out late one night during the series at Auchinleck last winter. They admitted the offence, but, curiously, they have not been officially informed that their absence is a form of punishment.

"We were not told officially that we were being dropped," Henry said. "The first I heard about it was when I didn't make the shortlist of 40. Since then we have gathered, more from rumours than anything else, that we have been banned." He understands that the suspension is for one year only and that the ten will be considered on their merits next winter.

While it is possible that some of the ten might have been omitted in any case, it is inconceivable that Henry, a 22-year-old student who has already won his national singles title, indoors and out, and McCloy, a regular skip, were dropped for lack of form.

Henry won the world outdoor pairs championship last March, when he and Sammy Allen defeated the holders, Richard Corsie and Alex Marshall, in the final. That triumph followed just days after the Auchinleck affair, and should have been enough to keep him in the side.

Ironically, although he will not be in Ireland's six-rink team, he will be popping down the road from Coleraine to the Provincial Towns club in Ballymoney — a journey of all of six miles — to challenge for the British Isles triples title, because he recently won the Irish triples championship.

Several of Ireland's world outdoor championship side missed the series last year because the events in Auchinleck and Adelaide were held virtually back to back, so the selectors were glad to recall players such as Allen, Ian McClure and Noel Graham. Even better, they were delighted that Jim Baker, the 1984 world indoor singles champion, who has a bowls stadium named after him, has decided to come out of retirement, and have reinstated him as one of the six skips.

IRELAND TEAM: Rink One: R Corry (Belfast), R McCutcheon (Belfast), R Battersby (Belfast), D Corkill (Belfast). Rink Two: M Nutt (Co Antrim), D Gardiner (Belfast), S Moran (Co Antrim), J Baker (Co Antrim). Rink Three: D Coulter (Belfast), B Thompson (Co Antrim), A Murphy (Co Antrim), S Allen (Provincial Towns). Rink Four: J Nicol (Provincial Towns), S Wylie (Co Antrim), N Booth (Co Antrim), R McCune (Provincial Towns). Rink Five: G Smyth (Co Antrim), J Smyth (Provincial Towns), I McClure (Provincial Towns), S Adamson (Belfast). Rink Six: A Montgomery (Belfast), R Milliken (Provincial Towns), H Elliott (Provincial Towns), N Graham (Belfast)

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Section 2 pages 34, 36 and 37

BOXING: LATEST WHITE HOPE SURE HE CAN END AKINWANDE'S REIGN

Welch takes psychological approach

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

SCOTT WELCH is putting his trust more on psychological readiness than physical training to beat Henry Akinwande in Nashville, Tennessee, on Saturday. The Brighton heavyweight is convinced that self-belief in the weeks of preparation before a contest is more important than technical skill in the ring on the night.

Welch is following the advice of his former stablemate, Steve Collins, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight champion, who used psychology to great advantage in his two contests with Chris Eubank. It has led Welch to believe that he can be the first white British world heavyweight champion since Bob Fitzsimmons nearly a century ago by relieving Akinwande of the WBO title.

While no expense was spared on boxing preparation at the David Lloyd Tennis Centre in Eastbourne — six weeks of intensive work before setting off for Tennessee cost the former British champion £65,000 — he has relied on psychological conditioning to give him the focus needed to carry out his game plan.

Jim McDonnell, Welch's trainer, said that the most important part of his daily routine was the 36 minutes Welch spent on mental concentration on Akinwande himself. Because of Akinwande's height — he is 6ft 7in — and skinny appearance, the champion is called The Stick in the Welch gym. A notice on the wall says: "Snap The Stick, Scott."

The main part of Scott's training comes after gym work when he spends 36 minutes, which is the length of a fight, sitting in a classroom staring at the notice. McDonnell said: "After training we go into this classroom and Scott sits in a chair thinking about Akinwande. At first I tell him to concentrate on the negatives for 15 minutes: defeat, getting peanuts for fights and people saying he was a white dope not a white hope. Then I tell him to think about the positives: hands up in the air, people wanting interviews, £1 million income from outside boxing, and he is the biggest man in sport in the country. Big-money fights waiting for him, financial security.

"For the last six minutes he thinks about Akinwande lying on the floor. Then I ask him which he liked more, the negatives or the positives."

The daily mental conditioning is expected to help Welch stay focused on the strategy and self-belief that he can beat Akinwande.

Just before he left for Tennessee last week it was also surprising to hear Welch saying: "If Mike Tyson was fighting Akinwande I wouldn't give Akinwande a shot. I'm a pressure fighter like Mike Tyson and I'm certain I will beat him."

McDonnell added: "Our training system is 100 per cent professional. Everything Scott does is clocked, mapped out. He has improved beyond belief, because I have got him believing in himself."

Welch: motivated

Akinwande: tall order

SQUASH

Khan looks to Britain as PSA imposes ban

BY COLIN McQUILLAN

JANSHER KHAN, the world champion from Pakistan, is relieved that he signed late last year to play for Surbiton in the Super Squash League that started in England this week and will run until mid-March.

He was banned from the Professional Squash Association (PSA) World Tour for a month and fined £1,000 yesterday for his last-minute withdrawal from the Mahindra International in Bombay last month, which means no income from the North American circuit later this month or from the International Tours event in Val de Loire, France, at the start of February.

Jansher has never been banned before, although he was once fined for lack of effort in a Stuttgart event in 1989. He has led the PSA world rankings uninterrupted since September 1993.

The Super Squash League does not recognise PSA bans, so the world champion could, if he chooses to leave the warmth of Peshawar for the chilly climes of Britain, fulfil almost a complete season for his Surrey side.

A 2-1 defeat at the hands of the defending champions, ICL LionHerts, this week suggested that such a move could be extremely beneficial for Surbiton.

It took a determined fightback from Dan Jenson, of Australia, to defeat Nathan Dugan 6-9, 9-6, 8-10, 9-3, 9-6 to secure the points for the defending champions, with Del Harris beating Tony Hands at first-string and Mark Chaloner losing to Danny Meddings.

Manchester Northern had a similar scare in Wales when Mark Cairns defeated Derek Ryan at first-string for Dunraven Maesteg and Alex Gough needed five games to subdue Paul Gregory, the Greek No 1, after Nick Taylor defeated David Evans.

Results, page 40

Benevolent rebel embraces radical agenda

David Miller finds Lord MacLaurin in bullish mood as United Kingdom Sports Council begins operations after interminable bureaucratic delay

WHEN Iain Sproat, the Minister for Sport, invited Sir Ian, now Lord, MacLaurin two years ago to be chairman-designate of the new UK Sports Council (UKSC), he no doubt thought he was appointing a part-time placed-man. Far from it. He is about to discover he has a rebel on his hands.

A benevolent rebel, it must be said, who is simultaneously dismayed by continuing British failure on the international sports stage, and frustrated by the Government's fudged creation of the UKSC. Lord MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, is not shy. He admits to being embarrassed by the present under-funded constitution of the UKSC, which he calls "ridiculous".

After interminable bureaucratic delay, the UKSC finally began operation this week, and staged a conference of 50 leading administrators, coaches, Olympians and representatives of the four regional sports councils. The prime, unequivocal message to emerge was that the Government has to make the UKSC a Lottery-funding distributor, to establish that age-old equation: money equals power.

At present, the power still lies with the England Sports Council, which receives the lion's share, 83 per cent, of the £300 million from Lottery funding, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland dividing the remainder. The UKSC will select, for instance, the new Academy for Sport: the England Sports Council will pay the bill. If they approve. How absurd.

"If a business is wrong," Lord MacLaurin said, "you write off the debts, and start from scratch. That is what should have happened with the UKSC. I've said to Sproat: 'Give us the set-up and I'll deliver — or fire me.' But I know I can deliver, because we have so many outstanding people, coaches and performers."

Warning shots have already been fired across the minister's bow. The Department of National Heritage has been told it is unwelcome as "observer" at future UKSC meetings, and that no one is to be appointed to the UKSC without consultation with MacLaurin. Sproat's PR exercise in nominating the high-profile, but unsuitable, Gary Lineker, Rob Andrew and Clive Lloyd has proved particularly inopportune.

MacLaurin has been advised that the Government will not address the situation again before the General Election, yet he is determined that the UKSC must either become a funding distributor, or be given a top-slicing off the allocation to the regional councils. They have already expressed their consent to this. At present the UKSC has a derisory budget of just under £12 million.

"With a fair wind and a reasonable government, we will be able to deliver," MacLaurin said on Tuesday, addressing some of the foremost brains in sport. Outstanding addresses had been given by coaches such as Tom McNab, Frank Dick, Deryk Snelling and John Scott, the UKSC director of international events.

Scott quoted Nelson Mandela's comment that "sport is the most effective means of communication in the modern world". Any government that ignores this is seriously uninformed. MacLaurin, besides being an enthusiast, and also the new chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, has first-hand evidence of public feel-good response to sporting success. The graph of Tesco sales accelerated like an Alan Shearer shot during Euro 96.

The UKSC priorities are:

☐ Become a Lottery-funding distributor, so as to be financially independent from regional councils;
☐ To target key sports for Olympic medals, with flexibility for outstanding individuals in other less prominent sports;
☐ Make management, coaches and competitors personally accountable for their funding;
☐ Adopt a vision aimed at the year 2020, not short term hand-to-mouth;
☐ Establish overall control of elite sport, in partnership with the British Olympic Association, placing international success above domestic interests;
☐ Create a close working relationship, based on training technology from sports-science and medicine with the three leadidng national sports, football, cricket and rugby;
☐ Create a winning concept without compromising on a strict ethical base;
☐ Abolish, if necessary by force, the 30-year-old hierarchical confusion of rival, and largely non-functional bodies such as CCPR and British Sports Forum;
☐ Host international events, and give sympathetic taxation attention to international federation headquarters based in Britain
☐ Co-ordinate government foreign policy in relation to sport (hugely developed by other countries).

هكذا من الأصل

RACING

Lindsay selected to join front row of Tote candidates

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

MAURICE LINDSAY, the chief executive of the Rugby Football League, emerged yesterday as a leading contender to succeed Lord Wyatt of Weeford as Tote chairman.

The sports administrator, 55, who has held a bookmaker's permit since 1975, is understood to be on the shortlist of candidates due to be interviewed over the next few days for one of racing's most important jobs.

Sir Jerry Wiggin, Conservative MP for Weston-super-Mare and a former government minister, completes the list of nine, although his chances of being chosen for the £75,000-a-year post are considered slim.

Lindsay, whose home town of Wigan is where the Tote's computer centre and Tote Credit operation are based, has been a racing man all his life. He has had racehorses in training since his early 20s, starting with Peter Robinson, and now has interests in the yards of Jim Old and Micky Hammond, whom he has supported since the Middleham trainer set up in 1990.

However, Lindsay's remarkable record in transforming the fortunes of rugby league will be the focus of attention for the Home Office-appointed interviewing panel as it helps Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, find the person with the right credentials to succeed Lord Wyatt. Few people come better equipped.

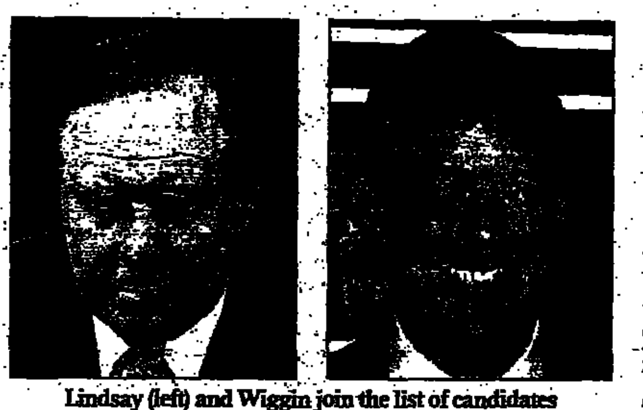
Already a successful businessman when he joined the Wigan board in 1979, he helped turn round the then ailing second division club into the most successful team in the history of the sport. Such was his success, he was the obvious person to lead the sport into the modern age and since 1992 he has been chief executive of the Rugby Football League during which time he has revolutionised the game.

The creation of the Super League, with £87 million of investment from Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, was not achieved without considerable criticism from diehard fans of the game. However, most club chairmen hailed him as a visionary for steering rugby league away from the the threat of oblivion.

His decision to apply for the Tote job only months before Super League, whose second season begins in March, will cause shockwaves within rugby league — especially as the remuneration on offer is a fraction of his present salary.

The shortlisting of Sir Jerry Wiggin has caused some surprise within Whitehall, given the calibre of some applicants who have not been granted an interview, including a highly-regarded City banker. With all the candidates names now revealed and interviews about to commence, there is increasing speculation as to the outcome.

The contest has prompted, suitably enough, an unofficial ante-post book as to who will put in charge of the pool-betting organisation. According to insiders, Peter Jones, the BHB and Tote director, is the 5-2 favourite. Lindsay and Christopher Sporborg, who holds numerous senior racing positions, are close behind at 7-2, while Lord Astor, a former Heritage minister, is 5-1. Guy Watkins, former chief executive of the Hong Kong Jockey Club is 7-1. Lieutenant-General Sir William Rous, who is believed to have the support of Lord Wyatt, is 10-1. Lord Ullswater, former chairman of Wincanton racecourse, is 20-1, while Lord Kimball and Wiggin are the two rank outsiders at 33-1.



Lindsay (left) and Wiggin join the list of candidates

ED BYRNE

The Jockey Club aims to shorten inquiries, such as the demotion of Cahervillahow (right) in the 1991 Whitbread

Stewards ring changes at inquiries

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

JOCKEYS are to be interviewed over the telephone in an effort to speed up the process of stewards' inquiries at British racecourses. Their presence in front of the stewards has been obligatory, but a series of trials breaking with the practice has been scheduled for Southwell racecourse in April.

In addition to direct telephone links with the weighing room, stewards are to be furnished with additional surveillance screens and immediate access to video footage from numerous angles. The new system, modelled on a format used extensively in North America and Australia, is designed to eliminate the time-consuming process of summoning all involved parties to appear before the stewards.

A blueprint for reducing inquiry times is to be examined by the Jockey Club stewards on Monday. Should the trials at Southwell prove successful, the Jockey Club is expected to adopt the system at the all-weather sites of Lingfield and Wolverhampton in advance of its widespread implementation across Britain.

Funding for the project has come from the Horserace Totalisator Board. Its chairman, Lord Wyatt, has been critical of lengthy stewards' inquiries, particularly if they are not resolved before the start of the next race. It has been established that punters are reluctant to bet before the outcome of their involvement in previous races has been established. In September 1994, Wyatt estimated that racing forfeited levy of £1 million annually through such delays.

Since Wyatt's criticisms, the Jockey Club has acted to quicken the process. Jockeys are now called before the stewards over the public address system rather than summoned by an individual, and telephone links have been established among those central to any inquiry. The inquiry procedure has also been streamlined. "This has had a significant effect in reducing the time it now takes to hold inquiries," David Pipe, the club's director of public affairs, said yesterday.

The Tote has pledged up to £150,000 towards speeding up inquiries, of which £90,000 has already been spent. "There has been progress," Geoffrey Webster, PRO at the Tote, said. "Anything that shortens delays before the result is declared official is welcome news."

When reviewing race finishes, stewards rely on four principal camera shots. They have instant head-on, side-on and rear views down the home straight in addition to footage from the back straight. Britain's racecourses are well served by a variety of camera angles; the new system will afford stewards immediate access to those pictures.

The project has been co-ordinated by the Jockey Club's director of regulation, Malcolm Wallace. Formerly a steward at Sandown and Warwick, Wallace was impressed by stewards' facilities at Santa Anita in California, and Flemington, home of the Melbourne Cup.

☐ In addition to win, place and forecast betting, the Tote is to operate Placepot betting on the first six races at Leopardstown on Saturday.

Suitor can provide handsome return

GOOD recent form on the track appears to be a prerequisite for success on the all-weather, and two horses stand out today at Lingfield Park (Thunderer writes).

Gay Kelleway appears to have transformed **Yet Again** (3.30) since buying him out of Ben Hanbury's yard for 5,200 guineas at the Newmarket July sales. After showing some useful form over hurdles, he has been a revelation on the all-weather, winning both his starts over 1½ miles here in impressive fashion.

Today's extra furlong should not be a problem and he is able to race off the same mark as when winning by five lengths a week ago. However, that will not be lost on the bookmakers, who are unlikely to be generous in their assessment of his chance.

A better bet may prove to be **Suitor** (2.30). He showed much improved form over today's course and distance when runner-up to Adamton nine days ago, in spite of his rider putting up 5lb overweight, and should take all the beating back off his correct handicap mark.

Just Loui has to shoulder a 7lb penalty for his success in a weak race here nine days ago, and looks one to oppose. La Dolce Vita would go well if reproducing the form of her Catterick maiden success in October, but is unproven on this surface and preference is for **The Wyandotte Inn** (3.00).

PROSPECTS

TOMORROW'S MEETINGS

ASCOT: frozen (inspection 8am today)
MUSSELBURGH: good to firm (hopeful)
SOUTHWELL: all-weather

SATURDAY

ASCOT: frozen
NEWCASTLE: good (hopeful of racing)
WARWICK: frozen (inspection 3pm today)
LINGFIELD PARK: all-weather
WOLVERHAMPTON. all-weather

[illegible] WOLVERHAMPTON

Going: standard

12.30 (7f) 1, FLAMBOYANCE (D Harrison, 11-2); 2, Selberry (G Carter, 8-11 fav); 3, Faym (F Norton, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Attribute (4th), Ross Burton, Supercharmer (5th), 25 West And See (6th), 50 Gymcrak Watermill, Just Rachel. 9 ran. 7l, 4l, 2½l, nk, ¾l. J Fanshawe at Newmarket. Tote: £6.30; £1.80, £1.10, £1.60. DF: £4.70. CSF: £10.57.

1.00 (7f) 1, COLD STEEL (S Sanders, 5-1); 2, Sliema Creek (A Culhane, 12-1); 3, Slousrouge (S Drowne, 4-5 fav). ALSO RAN: 7 Hint Of Victory (4th), Reeds (5th), 12 Native Thatch (6th), 16 Heathyards Pearl, Mendoza. 8 ran. 2l, 1¼l, 1½l, 10l, sh hd. W Jarvis at Newmarket. Tote: £4.50; £1.70, £2.40, £1.00. DF: £33.20. CSF: £57.19.

1.30 (6f) 1, ULTRA BEET (J Weaver, 2-1 fav); 2, Kalar (A Culhane, 4-1); 3, Krystal Max (V Appleby, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 6 Captain Carat, 10 Little Ibnr (5th), 20 Chilling (4th), Double Oscar (6th), Sue Me, Will To Win, 25 Havana Miss, 33 Mrs McBadger, 50 She's A Madam. 12 ran. NR: Lulu. 1¾l, ¾l, 6l, 1¼l, 4l. P Haslam at Middleham. Tote: £3.20; £1.80, £2.40, £1.10. DF: £18.80. Trio: £12.88. CSF: £10.97.

2.00 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, ROYAL ACTION (M Wigham, 8-1); 2, Celestial Choir (O Pears, 9-2); 3, South Eastern Fred (J Quinn, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 15-8 fav Raheen (6th), 5 Queen Of All Birds (5th), 6 Tea Party, 12 Doctor Bravious, Montecristo (4th). 8 ran. NR: Pater Noster. 2½l, 9l, 4l, 1¾l, nk. J Banks at Newmarket. Tote: £10.40; £1.50, £2.90, £1.80. DF: £19.10. Trio: £58.30. CSF: £44.83. Tricast: £189.63.

2.30 (6f) 1, SOTONIAN (J Bramhill, 20-1); 2, Chemcast (R Lappin, 6-1); 3, Ramsey Hope (N Kennedy, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 3-1 jt-fav Master Of Passion (6th), Shadow Jury (4th), 4 Amington Lass, 10 Dande Flyer (5th), Lord Sky. 8 ran. NR: Ajaz. ¾l, 1¾l, ½l, hd. P Felgate at Lisburn. Tote: £24.80; £2.30, £1.50, £1.60. DF: £88.70. CSP £128.06. Tricast: £812.43.

3.00 (1m 100yd) 1, LOCH STYLE (F Lynch, 4-1); 2, Galapino (D Wright, 3-1 jt-fav); 3, Bon Secret (J D Smith, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 jt-fav Spencer's Revenge, 4 Fleet Cadet, 10 Carmosa (5th), 14 Miss Charlie (4th), Welsh Melody, 16 El Bardador, 25 Desert Lore, 33 A S Jim, 50 Alana's Ballad, Email Shan (6th). 13 ran. 2l, 3½l, 11l, 1¼l, sh hd. R Hollinshead at Upper Longdon. Tote: £8.50; £2.10, £1.50, £2.20. DF: £37.70. Trio: £44.90. CSF: £19.36.

3.30 (1m 6f 166yd) 1, GOLDEN HADEER (A Clark, 13-8; Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Rood Music (A Culhane, 25-1); 3, Noufari (F Lynch, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 6-5 fav Beaumont (5th), 7 Sterling Fellow (4th), 16 Evezio Rufo (6th), 25 Red Phantom, 50 Hunting Ground, Scottish Wedding. 9 ran. 7l, 10l, 2½l, ¾l, 11l. M Ryan at Newmarket. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £5.70, £1.10. DF: £40.50. Trio: £55.70. CSF: £38.09. Tricast: £214.88.

4.00 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, SECOND COLOURS (D Harrison, 6-1); 2, Super High (F Norton, 11-2); 3, Golden Touch (G Bardwell, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Barrel Of Hope (4th), 9-2 Duke Valentino (5th), 7 Cedez Le Passage (6th), Rebel County, 12 Tom Morgan. 8 ran. NR: North Reel. ¼l, 8l, 3l, 1¼l, 6l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £6.30; £2.20, £1.40, £2.30. DF: £18.50. CSF: £37.25. Tricast: £191.92.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £9,424.43 carried forward to Lingfield Park today).

Placepot: £38.30. Quadpot: £22.10.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Germany are the reigning Venice Cup holders (the women's world championship). In the 1996 Olympiad they got to the quarter-finals, where they were beaten by Canada. The stars of their team are Sabine Auken (née Zenkel) and Daniela von Arnim, who will be playing in the Macallan International Pairs at the end of the month. Tony Gordon reported a coup on this hand from the 1996 Philip Morris European Mixed Teams. (It has been attributed to both women in various publications and the identity of the declarer is uncertain.)

Dealer West **Love all** **IMPs**

♠J7532
♥Q1072
♦J
♣KQ6

♠K9
♥A9
♦KQ9654
♣A103

♠6
♥K6543
♦873
♣9742

♠AQ1084
♥J8
♦A102
♣J85

W	N	E	S
1 NT (15-17)	Pass	2 D (1)	Pass
2 H	Pass	Pass	2 S
Pass	3 S	Pass	4 S
All Pass			

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: king of diamonds

(1) Transfer, showing at least five hearts.

The play on this hand required some quick thinking. What was West's heart holding? It was unlikely to be the ace and king, as he would have preferred that lead to a lead from the king-queen of diamonds.

That meant that East was marked with at least the king of hearts, so to make up his 15 points West had to have the king of spades. At trick two declarer led a low spade. West made the 'expert' play of ducking, and now his trump trick disappeared. No colour photographs of West's face are available, I'm afraid. Against a woman, as well.

What do you think of West's play? If his side had not bid, then it would be clear to duck — declarer holding AQ10xx is bound to finesse, or at any rate lay down the ace. But if West had put himself into declarer's position, he might have realised that she had worked out he had the king. It was not likely that his partner had the singleton ace after South's advance to Four Spades.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

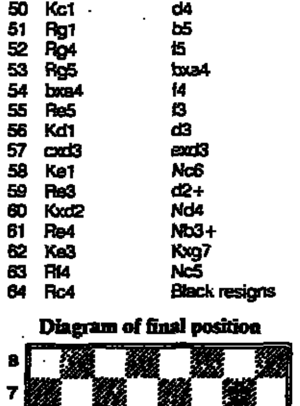
Hebden's best

The Hastings Premier tournament resulted in probably the finest performance of his career by the Leicestershire grandmaster Mark Hebden. The tournament achieved one of the highest internationally ranked categories ever held for a UK event, and Hebden shared first prize as well as inflicting defeat on two of the top British players, John Nunn and Michael Adams.

White: Mark Hebden
Black: Michael Adams
Hastings, December 1996
Wade/Prihyl Defence

1	d4	d6
2	e4	Nf6
3	Nc3	c6
4	Nf3	Bg4
5	h3	Bh5
6	g4	Bg6
7	Qe2	e6
8	Bg5	Be7
9	h4	h5
10	Bxf6	gxf6
11	Bh3	hxg4
12	Bxg4	d5
13	exd5	cxd5
14	h5	Bh7
15	Rg1	Nc6
16	0-0-0	Qc7
17	Bh3	Qf4+
18	Kb1	Bf5
19	Bxf5	Qxf5
20	Ne1	0-0-0
21	Rh1	Rdg8
22	Rd3	Rg4
23	h6	Kb8
24	f3	Rxd4
25	Qh2+	Qf4
26	Qxf4+	Rxf4
27	Ne2	Rc4
28	b3	Rc5
29	f4	Bf8
30	h7	Ne7
31	Rg3	Rc8
32	Nd4	a6
33	Nd3	Kc7
34	a4	Kd8
35	Rh5	Kd7
36	Rg2	Nc8
37	Nf3	Bd6
38	Nh4	Ke7
39	f5	e5
40	Ng6+	fxg6
41	fxg6	Ke6
42	g7	Rxh7
43	Rxh7	Rg8
44	Nf2	e4
45	Ng4	Bf4
46	Nh6	Bxh6
47	Rxh6	Ne7
48	Rh8	Kf7
49	Rxg8	Kxg8
50	Kc1	d4
51	Rg1	b5
52	Rg4	f5
53	Rg5	bxa4
54	bxa4	f4
55	Re5	f3
56	Kd1	d3
57	cxd3	exd3
58	Ke1	Nc6
59	Re3	d2+
60	Kxd2	Nd4
61	Re4	Nb3+
62	Ke3	Kxg7
63	Rf4	Nc5
64	Rc4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Chess for charity

Michael Stern has organised a simultaneous chess display to support the Mencap Blue Sky appeal tomorrow at the Community Rooms, Stile Acres, Lawrence Weston, near Bristol (7pm). Mr Stern is chairman of the All Party Chess Group in the House of Commons, as well as being the MP for Bristol North West. The grandmaster giving the display is Stuart Conquest. If you wish to play or attend contact 0117 962 2191.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

[illegible]

By Philip Howard

JOVENCEL
a. Thursday in Provence
b. A primitive test tube
c. A young man

KILLBUCK
a. A ferocious fellow
b. A big marble
c. A poacher

HALSING
a. Embracing
b. An itinerant saga-singer
c. Extemporary dancing

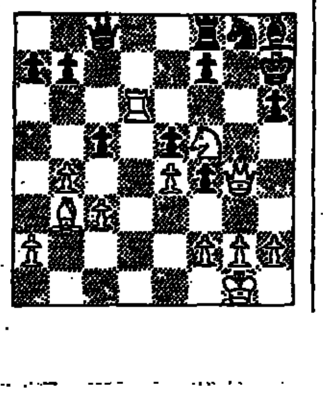
JULIO
a. A silk scarf
b. A card game
c. A coin

Answers on page 42

[illegible]NING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Kreiman — Spisak, Medellin 1996. All White's pieces are aimed powerfully at the broken black kingside. How did he now terminate Black's resistance?



Solution on page 42

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.30 Shontaine
1.00 Palacegate Jack
1.30 Milos
2.00 Enlisted
2.30 **SUITOR (nap)**
3.00 The Wyandotte Inn
3.30 Yet Again

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 **YET AGAIN.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 **ENLISTED (nap).** 2.30 Mediate. 3.30 Broughtons Formula.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.30 REDGAUNTLET SELLING STAKES (Div I: £1,649: 7f) (12 runners)

101	(6)	000140-	LANCASHIRE LEGEND 44 (CD,G) (B Taker & D Watson) S Dow 4-9-4	A Daly (5)	89
102	(7)	003156-	SHONTAINE 20 (D,F,G) (P Dean) M Johnston 4-9-4	J Weaver	90
103	(9)	600000-	DANCING JACK 9 (C,G) (Mrs J Stamp) J Bridger 4-8-12	D Harrison	79
104	(5)	06343-3	HAWAII STORM 5 (B,CD,G,S) (C Capel) D ffrench Davis 9-8-12	M Baird (3)	83
105	(10)	000400-	MULTAN 40J (P Higgins) G L Moore 5-8-12	F Lynch (3)	81
106	(2)	00350-0	OUR SHADEE 5 (V,CD,F,G) (F Ivory) K Ivory 7-8-12	C Scally	91
107	(4)	056500-	RED TIME 42J (R Penny) M Saunders 4-8-12	R Perham	81
108	(8)	043200-	STATISTICIAN 29 (E,F) (R Sims) John Berry 5-8-12	J Quinn	88
109	(1)	000400-	AL SHAATI 29 (B,C,G) (Mrs R Doorgachurn) R O'Sullivan 7-8-7	F Norton	71
110	(11)	05042-4	MYSTERY MATTHIAS 5 (V) (M & Mrs J Laycock) Miss B Sanders 4-8-7	S Sanders	84
111	(3)	6245-0	SANTELLA KATIE 8 (B K Partnership) Mrs L Stubbs 4-8-7	S Drowne	[illegible]
112	(12)	2506/44-	TRIBLE PET 313 (V) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 4-8-7	Dane O'Neill	81

BETTING: 7-2 Hawaii Storm, 9-2 Lancashire Legend, Multan, 5-1 Mystery Matthias, 6-1 Shontaine, 7-1 Our Shadee, 10-1 Trible Pet, Al Shaati, 12-1 others.

1996: STAR TALENT 5-8-12 R Cochrane (10-11 fav) Miss G Kelleway 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

LANCASHIRE LEGEND best effort beat Woodbury Lad 3l in 9-runner course and distance maiden Nov 96. SHONTAINE best effort beat Surf City neck in 16-runner handicap at Southwell (AW, 7f) Nov 96. HAWAII STORM 4l 3rd of 9 to Royal Carlton in course and distance handicap. OUR SHADEE 6l 7th of 11 to Invocation in handicap here (AW, 6f). STATISTICIAN best effort 1¾l 2nd of 14 to Smithereens in course and distance handicap Nov 96, with SHONTAINE (5lb worse off) 1¾l 3rd and LANCASHIRE LEGEND (7lb better off) 2¼l 4th. MYSTERY MATTHIAS 3¾l 4th of 11 to Sharp Imp in handicap here (AW, 6f).
Selection: LANCASHIRE LEGEND

1.00 GUY MANNERING CLAIMING STAKES (£2,726: 5f) (8 runners)

201	(5)	200126-	PALACEGATE JACK 21 (D,F,G,S) (Bending Matters Ltd) C Dwyer 6-9-3	F Lynch (3)	[illegible]
202	(3)	00002-3	BOFFY 5 (B,D,G) (S Baugh) B Baugh 4-8-11	R Perham	74
203	(7)	5000-23	KRYSTAL MAX 1 (CD,F,G) (Oakfield Nurseries) T Barron 4-8-11	Victoria Appleby (7)	93
204	(8)	331400-	MADRINA 12 (C,G) (J Berry) J Berry 4-8-8	P Fessey (5)	89
205	(4)	04040-4	LIFT BOY 7 (CD,F,G) (A Moore) A Moore 8-8-7	Candy Morris	88
206	(6)	004000-	LOGIE PERT LAD 9 (D Smith) J Bridger 5-8-5	A Daly (5)	61
207	(2)	000055-	WINDRUSH BOY 9 (D,F,G) (Miss C Commons) J Bosley 7-8-3	C Rutter	72
208	(1)	40040-0	SUPERLAO 5 (D,F,G) (J Bridger) J Bridger 5-7-12	J Quinn	72

BETTING: 9-4 Krystal Max, 3-1 Palacegate Jack, 5-1 Boffy, Lift Boy, 7-1 Madrina, 8-1 Windrush Boy, 14-1 Superlao, 25-1 Logie Pert Lad.

1996: LIFT BOY 7-8-3 Candy Morris (10-1) A Moore 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

PALACEGATE JACK 1l 2nd of 17 to Portend in apprentices' handicap at Southwell (AW, 5f) penultimate start. BOFFY ¾l 2nd of 13 to Amington Lass in Wolverhampton handicap (AW, 5f) penultimate start with MADRINA (11lb better off) 20l 11th. KRYSTAL MAX third yesterday, previously neck 2nd of 7 to Amy Leigh in Wolverhampton claimer (AW, 5f) with BOFFY (7lb better off) 1l 3rd. MADRINA 9l 8th of 14 to Bold Effort in handicap here (AW, 6f) penultimate start with LIFT BOY (9lb better off) 9½l 11th. LIFT BOY 4¾l 4th of 9 to Ultra Beet in handicap here (AW, 6f). SUPERLAO 10l 7th to Sharp Imp in handicap here (AW, 6f).
Selection: PALACEGATE JACK

1.30 REDGAUNTLET SELLING STAKES (Div II: £1,649: 7f) (12 runners)

301	(5)	34000-0	ASTRAL INVADER 7 (C,F,S) (M Saunders) M Saunders 5-8-12	R Perham	81
302	(8)	500000-	FORGOTTEN DANCER 10 (B,S) (R Ingram) R Ingram 6-8-12	S Drowne	–
303	(4)	3300/00-	GREY LEGEND 238 (B) (J Fleck) R Flower 4-8-12	M Wigham	74
304	(6)	60000-0	KI CHI SAGA 5 (D,G,S) (D Knight) M Madgwick 5-8-12	D Harrison	[illegible]
305	(10)	000350-	MILOS 20 (CD,F,G) (R Popely) T Naughton 6-8-12	J Weaver	96
306	(3)	530004-	RAGAZZO 27J (B,CD,G) (S Pedersen) J Wainwright 7-8-12	L Charnock	83
307	(11)	355004-	THE FRISKY FARMER 29 (V,F,S) (G Buch) W G M Turner 4-8-12	T Sprake	87
308	(2)	45056/0-	FAIR ELLA 20 (Miss J Reeves) G L Moore 5-8-7	J Quinn	63
309	(7)	50665-0	FANCY DESIGN 5 (Mrs V Haigh) P Mitchell 4-8-7	S Sanders	68
310	(1)	640/02-0	GOLDEN SILVER 5 (S Strickland) J Moore 4-8-7	K Aston (7)	79
311	(12)	000320-	MADONNA DA ROSSI 133 (Smith & Allen Oils Racing Club) M Dods 4-8-7	A Clark	72
312	(9)	000050-	SHERWOOD 9 (A Saunders) A Ivory 4-8-7	M Adams	71

BETTING: 5-4 Milos, 9-2 The Frisky Farmer, 7-1 Madonna Da Rossi, 8-1 Ki Chi Saga, 10-1 Ragazzo, 12-1 Sherwood, Fair Ella, 14-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

KI CHI SAGA 12l 7th of 9 to Royal Carlton in handicap over course and distance (AW) with GOLDEN SILVER (29lb better off) 25l last. MILOS best effort 4¾l 5th of 16 to Mr Nevermind in handicap over course and distance penultimate start. RAGAZZO about 5l 4th of 12 to Deeply Vale in claimer over course and distance. THE FRISKY FARMER about 6½l 4th of 12 to Apollo Red in handicap over course and distance. GOLDEN SILVER 3l 2nd of 13 to Ortolan in claimer at Salisbury (6f, good to firm). MADONNA DA ROSSI best effort short-head 2nd of 13 to Sec Garden in selling handicap at Ayr (7f, good) penultimate start.
Selection: MILOS (nap)

2.00 QUENTIN DURWARD MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,485: 1m) (7 runners)

401	(5)	04-	JOLLY JACKSON 20 (Mrs A Valentine) R Akehurst 9-0	S Sanders	85
402	(3)	2-	ROYAL ATY 67 (General Horse Advertising SRL) P Kelleway 9-0	M Wigham	90
403	(1)	06040-2	SERENADE 7 (Ansells of Watford) M Haynes 9-0	G Bardwell	78
404	(7)	55-	DOUBLE CREST 26 (The 3rd Middleham Partnership) M Johnston 8-9	J Weaver	87
405	(6)	2-	ENLISTED 26 (N Greig) M Prescott 8-9	C Nutter	[illegible]
406	(2)	033-2	PATINA 6 (BF) (Barouche Stud) R Hollinshead 8-9	F Lynch (3)	84
407	(4)	55-	TROIA 20 (J Massy-Collier) B Smart 8-9	T Sprake	87

BETTING: 7-4 Enlisted, 3-1 Royal Aty, 6-1 Jolly Jackson, Patina, 7-1 Serenade, 8-1 Troia, 10-1 Double Crest.

1996: WELL DRAWN 9-0 W Newnes (7-4 fav) H Candy 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

JOLLY JACKSON about 1¾l 4th of 10 to Feather Bed in maiden over course and distance (AW) with TROIA 2¾l 5th. ROYAL ATY 1¼l 3rd of 6 to Yavlensky in conditions race at San Siro, Milan, (1m, soft). SERENADE 2l 2nd of 9 to Misty Cay in claimer over course and distance. ENLISTED head 2nd of 12 to No More Pressure in maiden at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). PATINA ½l 2nd of 8 to Pet Express in handicap at Southwell (AW, 7f). TROIA 11¾l 5th of 6 to Kalisla in auction maiden at Warwick (7f, good to firm).
Selection: ROYAL ATY

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.30 TALISMAN HANDICAP (£2,641: 1m 2f) (14 runners)

501	(6)	010005-	TRIBAL PEACE 56 (CD,G,S) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 5-10-0	G Gallagher (7)	87
502	(8)	0/0060-0	JUBILEE SCHOLAR 5 (Mount Juliet) K McAuliffe 4-9-12	F Lynch (3)	–
503	(1)	540050-	SQUIRE'S OCCASION 473 (Chalgate Public Relations) R Akehurst 4-9-12	A Daly (5)	–
504	(4)	005043-	KITTY KITTY CANCAN 9 (B) (G Herridge) Lady Herries 4-9-10	A Clark	94
505	(13)	00004-5	DOUBLE MARCH 7 (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) P Webber 4-9-5	Dane O'Neill	94
506	(3)	431600-	RACING HAWK 42J (D,F) (T Leigh) M Saunders 5-9-4	R Perham	90
507	(12)	240100-	MULTI FRANCHISE 121 (CD,F,G) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 4-9-3	M Wigham	91
508	(10)	106/050-	CAN CAN CHARLIE 20 (G,S) (G Tuck) J Pearce 7-9-1	G Bardwell	91
509	(11)	004042-	MEDIATE 14 (B,C,F,G) (A Hide) A Hide 5-9-1	G Milligan (7)	97
510	(5)	450350-	DR EDGAR 22J (B,D,F,G) (A Watson) M Dods 5-9-1	F Norton	95
511	(9)	43400-2	NAKHAL 7 (Mrs D Whitder) D Murray Smith 4-8-11	J Weaver	98
512	(14)	060446-	SHERAZ 13 (G) (Speedlith Group) N Tinkler 5-8-11	C Rutter	97
513	(7)	350402-	SUITOR 9 (Mrs J Churston) S Dow 4-8-3	S Sanders	[illegible]
514	(2)	060-	DARATOWN 51 (V) (C John Hill) P Evans 4-8-1	J Quinn	–

BETTING: 7-2 Kitty Kitty Cancan, 4-1 Nakhal, 6-1 Suitor, Squire's Occasion, 7-1 Mediate, 8-1 Double March, 10-1 Dr Edgar, 12-1 Sheraz, 14-1 others.

1996: EXPLOSIVE POWER 5-9-5 T Ives (5-1) G Bravery 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

TRIBAL PEACE about 9l 5th of 8 to Ambassador in handicap over course and distance. DOUBLE MARCH about 2¾l 5th of 8 to Quiet Arch in conditions race over course and distance. MEDIATE short-head 2nd of 9 to Warkilo Beach in claimer over course and distance. NAKHAL 1¾l 2nd of 11 to Tarralek in maiden over course and distance. SHERAZ best effort about 2¾l 4th of 12 to Zuno Flyer in amateur riders' conditions race here (AW, 1m 4f) penultimate start with CAN CAN CHARLIE (4lb worse off) 8l 7th. SUITOR 1½l 2nd of 9 to Adamton in handicap over course and distance with KITTY KITTY CANCAN 4¼l 3rd.
Selection: NAKHAL

3.00 WAVERLEY HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,388: 6f) (6 runners)

601	(5)	621211-	JUST LOUI 9 (CD,G) (A Poole) W G M Turner 9-12 (7ex)	D Sweeney (5)	[illegible]
602	(6)	324200-	PETITE DANSEUSE 48 (F,G) (Bending Matters) C Dwyer 9-7	C Dwyer	98
603	(1)	001-	LA DOLCE VITA 82 (G) (S Woodall) T Barron 9-4	D Harrison	96
604	(2)	223221-	THE WYANDOTTE INN 10 (CD,G) (G Farndon) R Hollinshead 9-3 (7ex)	F Lynch (3)	96
605	(3)	6443-3	FORGOTTEN TIMES 7 (J Crook) T Jones 8-5	N Carlisle	95
606	(4)	3013-	TAOME 187 (F) (M Lawrence) P Evans 8-1	J Quinn	93

BETTING: 6-4 Just Loui, 9-4 The Wyandotte Inn, 5-1 La Dolce Vita, 8-1 Petite Danseuse, Forgotten Times, 16-1 Taome.

1996: CASTLE GOVERNOR 7-5 M Baird (8-1) P Haslam 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

JUST LOUI beat Rock To The Top 1½l in 6-runner handicap over course and distance. PETITE DANSEUSE 8½l 8th of 15 to Arapi in handicap at Southwell (AW, 6f). LA DOLCE VITA beat Hyde Park 1¾l in 14-runner maiden at Catterick (5f, good). THE WYANDOTTE INN beat Khanun Nisao 7l in 3-runner auction maiden over course and distance. FORGOTTEN TIMES about 6l 3rd of 5 to Effervescence in handicap here (AW, 7f). TAOME best effort beat Brutal Fantasy neck in 4-runner seller at Carlisle (5f, firm) penultimate start.
Selection: THE WYANDOTTE INN

3.30 IVANHOE HANDICAP (£2,563: 1m 5f) (11 runners)

1	(5)	106422-	BROUGHTONS FORMULA 9 (B,CD,F,G) W Musson 7-9-10	G Carter	93
2	(8)	340161-	RASAYEL 9 (CD,F,G) (Pentone Haulage) P Evans 7-9-8	Jo Hunnam (7)	95
3	(1)	10601-1	YET AGAIN 7 (C,F,G) (A Grifin) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-5 (5ex)	S Sanders	[illegible]
4	(9)	40002-5	SAPPHIRE SON 7 (C,G) (D Cobb) P Clarke 5-9-3	Dane O'Neill	82
5	(6)	/40410-	LUCY TUFTY 28J (S) (G Tuck) J Pearce 6-8-10	G Bardwell	84
6	(7)	430600-	FABULOUS MTOTO 12 (F,G) (N Pike) M Saunders 7-8-9	R Perham	93
7	(3)	400/625-	SASSIVER 43J (G) (P Kelleway) P Kelleway 7-8-4	D Wright	87
8	(4)	0/00/	CITY RUN 605 (A Evans) D Cosgrove 5-8-4	F Norton	–
9	(2)	004602-	SAM ROCKETT 10 (B) (P Mooney) P Mooney 4-8-2	J Quinn	92
10	(10)	0/4-	WHIPPERS DELIGHT 10 (F,G) (S Tindall) G Charles-Jones 9-7-13	A McCarthy (7)	86
11	(11)	/0/0000-	ETOILE DU NORD 14 (Miss Z Whitmore) H Collingridge 5-7-11	N Adams	85

BETTING: 4-6 Yet Again, 9-2 Rasayel, 6-1 Broughtons Formula, 8-1 Sam Rockett, 10-1 Sapphire Son, 12-1 Sassiver, Lucy Tufty, 14-1 others.

1996: IRON N GOLD 4-8-9 S Sanders (8-1) A Moore 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

BROUGHTONS FORMULA 3½l 2nd of 12 to Wottashambles in conditions race here (AW, 2m) penultimate start. RASAYEL beat BROUGHTONS FORMULA (2lb worse off) ½l m apprentice riders' handicap over course and distance. YET AGAIN beat Premier League 5l in 13-runner handicap here (AW, 1m 4f) with SAPPHIRE SON 16l 5th. LUCY TUFTY best effort beat Nothing Doing ¾l in 18-runner selling handicap at Folkestone (1m 4f, soft) on penultimate start with YET AGAIN 19l 15th and ETOILE DU NORD (10lb better off) 74l 17th. FABULOUS MTOTO best effort about 3l 6th of 8 to Arabias in handicap here (1m 3f 106yds, good to firm) in Aug 96. SASSIVER about 7¾l 5th of 10 to Claque in handicap over course and distance.
Selection: YET AGAIN

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
T Barron	9	26	34.6	J Weaver	67	307	21.8
M Prescott	18	68	26.5	C Scally	5	31	16.1
D Murray Smith	12	62	19.4	D Harrison	27	184	14.7
J Berry	18	96	18.8	D R McCabe	15	115	13.0
M Johnston	36	224	16.1	A Daly	9	76	11.8
P Mitchell	12	78	15.4	A Clark	35	308	11.7

☐ In the event of Ascot's Saturday meeting being called off, the £35,000-added Victor Chandler Handicap Chase will be switched to Kempton Park on Saturday, January 18.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LA DOLCE VITA
(3.00 Lingfield Park)
Next best: Suitor
(2.30 Lingfield Park)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 12.30 Trible Pet. 1.30 The Frisky Farmer. 2.30 Daratown, Dr Edgar

RAPID RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
LINGFIELD 101 201
IRISH 120 220
IRISH LOTTERY RESULT
0930 162 441
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TENNIS: FORMER FRENCH OPEN CHAMPION OUTGUNNED BY FAST-RISING BRITISH NO 1

Henman volleys to another success

By Our Sports Staff

Henman, left, and Bruguera shake hands after Henman's win in three sets to reach the quarter-finals of the Sydney International

TIM HENMAN, showing an impressive will to win, reached the quarter-finals of the Sydney International tournament yesterday by fighting back from a set down to overpower Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

The British No 1 showed few signs of jet-lag during his second victory in 48 hours since touching down in Australia after defeat in the final of the Qatar Open in Doha on Sunday at the hands of the former world No 1, Jim Courier.

Bruguera, who has won the French Open on two occasions and had beaten Henman in both their previous meetings, broke the Englishman's service to love in the opening game. Henman, 22, showed his mettle by breaking back immediately, but struggled with his service in windy conditions and was broken twice more by the Spaniard, ranked No 66 in the world, as he lost the first set.

However Henman, who admitted to taking "one or two sleeping pills" to help him to sleep after his 14-hour flight from the Middle East, raced to a 5-2 lead in the second set, dropping his service once more, before levelling the match.

It was at 3-3 in the third set when Henman's self-belief really shone through as Bruguera, a clay-court specialist, was made to struggle on the cement surface as the Englishman repeatedly charged the net. His bravado was rewarded when he broke the Spaniard's service in the eighth game, going on to book his place in the last eight in just under an hour-and-a-half. He will now meet Alex O'Brien, of the United States.

"I am probably serving a little bit better than I was 12 months ago, having gained more experience, so when there were really big points to be played I was able to come out and win those points," Henman said. "That translated into me winning the match in the end instead of Sergi."

Bruguera had beaten the world No 18, Felix Mantilla, in the first round in Sydney, and lost to Courier in the semi-final in Qatar.

Henman believes that he is now a match for almost any opponent. "You have got to believe in yourself and whenever I am playing a match now I do believe that I have got a chance against most players," he said. "Three-all in the last set is obviously getting down to the wire. It's just a question of concentrating and playing your own game, and hoping that's enough.

"After the first set my game plan was to get to the net. Win or lose, that's what I would do. I can volley well and I should use that aspect of my game. I did so in Doha to good effect."

His next opponent has also enjoyed recent success on the ATP Tour, rising from No 285 last July to No 37 in the latest ranking list. O'Brien beat Mikael Tillstrom, of Sweden, to reach the quarter-finals and will be confident of overcoming Henman, having won their only previous meeting, a first-round encounter in Manchester in the summer of 1994, 1-6, 6-4, 6-0. Henman, however, is intent on catching up on missed sleep before considering his tactics against the American. "I think I'm just in Australian time but who knows," he said.

The top seed, Goran Ivanisevic, although winning only four points in the second set, still got through against Javier Sánchez, of Spain. The big-serving Croat, ranked No 3 in the world, won 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 after overcoming stiff resistance from the world No 38.

Ivanisevic and Albert Costa, the No 3 seed, from Spain, were the only men's seeds to make the last eight. Costa beat Bohdan Ulihrach, of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-2.

In the women's event, Jennifer Capriati moved into the quarter-finals with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Rene Simpson, of Canada. Capriati, 20, ranked No 37 in the world and on her second comeback after a promising career was derailed by a series of much-publicised off-court problems, is confident of building on the form she showed in 1996.

She beat Monica Seles in straight sets on the way to the final of a Chicago tournament in November. "It's very exciting. There's no place I would rather be right now [than on a tennis court]," Capriati said. "It's what I want to be doing. I don't have to be playing but this is a part of my life I want to pursue."

Capriati, who turned professional a month before her fourteenth birthday in 1990, allowed her personal life to get in the way of a promising career in late 1993 when she left the tour, citing disagreements with her father and coach, Stefano Capriati, and burnout. In December of that year, she was arrested for shoplifting.

She made an unsuccessful comeback at a Philadelphia tournament in 1994, after having been charged in May of that year with marijuana possession. Two stays in drug rehabilitation clinics followed.

She returned again in February last year and reached the last 16 of the Lipton International. She had a poor run before beating Seles in Chicago, where she lost to Jana Novotna in the final.

Asked what she now thought of juniors turning professional at the same age as herself, Capriati said: "It depends on the individual. You can't stop a flower from growing. If the potential is there, the talent is there; you can't hold it back. You've got to let it go."

Novak prevails in battle of the baseline

JIRI NOVAK'S hopes of retaining his New Zealand Open title improved yesterday when he put paid to Cecil Mamiit, of the United States, in the second round. Novak, from the Czech Republic, ranked No 50 in the world, won 6-4, 6-2 and looked to have benefited from a tough three-setter against Scott Draper, of Australia, on Tuesday.

Novak and Mamiit, who pulled off an unexpected win against Brett Steven, of New Zealand, in the first round, were content to exchange lengthy rallies from the baseline, but it was Novak's experience that eventually prevailed. He gained a break in the fifth game of the first set and then held service to take it 6-4.

Mamiit entered the tournament as a lucky loser after failing to qualify and after Magnus Gustafsson, the No 2 seed, withdrew. Novak said that Mamiit's speed around the court was impressive.

"He was very difficult, because we were having to rally a lot and he is good player," Novak said. "My game is getting better, but there is a little bit of pressure on me here because I am the defending champion."

Novak will meet Alex Radulescu, the Romanian-born German, in the quarter-finals tomorrow. Radulescu had to work hard for his 7-6, 6-4 victory over Thomas Johansson, of Sweden.

Hernan Gumy, of Argentina, the No 5 seed, progressed into the quarter-finals with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Nicklas Kulti, of Sweden, while Kenneth Carlsen, of Denmark, upset Alberto Berasategui, of Spain, the No 3 seed, 6-3, 6-3.

Elena Likhovtseva, of Russia, the No 1 seed, retired injured from her second round match yesterday at the Tasmanian International women's tournament.

Likhovtseva, playing Els Callens, of Belgium, won the first set 6-1 and led the second 5-1 before Callens came back to take the set 7-2 in a tie-break. Callens held a service break and led 2-0 in the deciding set when Likhovtseva retired with a hamstring injury.

Shi-Ting Wang, of Taiwan, the No 6 and only remaining seed, cruised into the quarter-finals with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Magdelena Grzybowska, of Poland, and Mano Endo, of Japan, beat Anne Miller, of the United States, 6-3, 7-6. In a night match, Annabel Ellwood beat Siobhan Drake-Brockman, her Australia compatriot, 6-2, 6-4.

Channel 5 lands England coup

ENGLAND'S football World Cup qualifying match in Poland will be shown live and free to viewers exclusively on Channel 5 on May 31, after an unexpected coup by the new terrestrial station (John Goodbody writes). Channel 5 is believed to have paid £1.5 million to beat Sky, the BBC and ITV, which between them have shown all England's recent games.

In a double-header of internationals at prime time on the same Saturday evening, Channel 5 will also screen the Argentina versus England rugby union international in Buenos Aires. This begins at 6pm GMT. The tie in Poland will start at 8pm.

This is the first big international sports acquisition for the new channel, which will start transmitting on March 30. Channel 5 expects 80 per cent of the country to be able to see the station at the launch.

Clean sweep thwarted

CRICKET: Pakistan won the third one-day under-19 international against England by two wickets with a ball to to spare in Karachi yesterday. England had already taken the series by winning the first two matches, but Pakistan deserved their consolation victory, recovering well to score 235 for eight in reply to England's 231 for seven. David Nash, of Middlesex, made 76 after a half-century opening stand between John Graham and Ian Flanagan and, with Pakistan struggling at 80 for five, England looked set for a clean sweep, only for Ahmar Saeed (63) and Farhan Adil (66) to add 128 for the sixth wicket.

Injury threat to Tomba

SKIING: Alberto Tomba, of Italy, the triple Olympic champion, was yesterday forced to halt training for the World Cup slalom race in Chamonix, France, on Sunday by the recurrence of an old wrist injury. The flamboyant Italian finished a disappointing eighth at Kranjska Gora on Monday, claiming the race should never have been held in the misty conditions. Tomba, whose presence on Sunday is now in doubt, said: "The year hasn't really got off to a good start. However, I hope to recover in time for the next few races before the world championships in Sestriere."

Bugner gives up title

BOXING: Joe Bugner, 46, the former European, Commonwealth and British champion, is relinquishing his Australian heavyweight title. Bugner said yesterday that he no longer has any ambition other than a showdown with his fellow veteran, George Foreman — a bout he has been chasing for 20 years. "It is better for me to give up the Australian title so that two younger fellows can fight for it," Bugner said. "There is still a slight chance I could fight Foreman, but I am becoming disillusion with the politics involved. It seems he doesn't really want to fight me."

Passport to success

GOLF: Nick Price has been granted his Zimbabwean citizenship, to end years of debate over his nationality. Zimbabwean authorities granted Price's citizenship last Friday and gave him a Zimbabwean passport the same day. Price, 37, who had travelled on a British passport since 1984, when he lost his Zimbabwean citizenship, played golf representing Zimbabwe from 1993 under a special dispensation. He was born in South Africa and raised in Zimbabwe, but renounced his Zimbabwean citizenship in 1984, when the country abolished dual citizenship.

Pair progress in style

TABLE TENNIS: Darren Blake, of Surrey, and Andrew Eden, of Lancashire, were England's two undefeated men in the round-robin singles groups at the English Open at Kettering Arena yesterday. Blake had an unexpected 3-1 victory over Oktay Cimen, the Turkish No 2, and beat Jonah Kahn, of Holland, by the same score. Eden defeated Colin Robertson, the Scottish No 3, and Tim Janssens, of Belgium, both 3-0. A further reshuffle of the seeded men players will take place today before the involvement of the world-class professionals tomorrow.

FOOTBALL: VIALLI LEFT TO KICK HIS HEELS IN INTERNATIONAL EXILE BY NEW ITALY COACH

Swain asked to keep Grimsby afloat

By Our Sports Staff

KENNY SWAIN was confirmed as the new manager of Grimsby Town yesterday. Swain, 44, had been acting as caretaker manager for the Nationwide League first division side for the past two months. He has been given the job until the end of the season.

Grimsby lie in bottom place in the first division, but have shown improved form under Swain, losing just two of his seven games in charge prior to the 7-1 FA Cup defeat at Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

Swain, a League championship and European Cup winner at Aston Villa, was appointed assistant manager to Brian Laws in October 1994. However, when Laws was sacked last October, the board offered the job to John Cockerill, the youth coach, who resigned after one match claiming he had insufficient funds to bring in new players.

Bill Carr, the chairman, said Swain would have money available. "We are very pleased, with the exception of Saturday, with the way things have gone. Kenny is confident he can keep us in this position," Carr said.

Swain said: "It is a relief because the situation had gone on for too long. The aim is to stay in this division but it will be a four months' slog."

Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea forward, will not be recalled by Italy for the international against Northern Ireland in Palermo on January 22. The match is the first for Cesare Maldini as coach, and will serve as a warm-up for the World Cup qualifying tie against England at Wembley next month.

Regulations mean that Maldini had to give 14 days' notice to non-Italian clubs if he wished to include their players in his squad. Maldini has informed Chelsea that he could include Gianfranco Zola, the forward, and Roberto di Matteo, the midfield player, and Middlesbrough that he might want Fabrizio Ravanelli, the forward.

Davor Suker and Predrag Mijatovic, the Real Madrid forwards, could be transfer targets for Manchester United and Arsenal, according to reports in Madrid. The Spanish media has suggested that the FA Carling Preimership clubs may make a joint bid of around £22 million.

Mijatovic, of Yugoslavia, and Suker, of Croatia, have scored 22 league goals between them this season. Fabio Capello, the Real coach, said: "Everybody wants players from Real, it's normal, and the English now are the clubs that have got most money of all."

Andy Bernal, the Reading defender, has been saved from a five-match ban after referee Richard Poulain admitted he was wrong to send him off against West Bromwich Albion on Boxing Day. Bernal, 30, had already been dismissed twice this season and, under FA regulations, a third sending off is punishable by an automatic five-match suspension. Poulain has agreed that he made a mistake after reviewing the incident on video.

Vialli: no return

Birmingham City have joined the list of clubs wanting to sign Paul Warhurst from Blackburn Rovers. Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, wants to take Warhurst, 27, on loan with a view to becoming a permanent signing if he proves his fitness after a hamstring injury.

Benito Carbone, the Sheffield Wednesday midfield player, could be out of action for several weeks because of a groin injury. The Italian will have an exploratory operation tomorrow to determine the extent of the injury.

MOTOR RACING

Jordan lead generation game

By Oliver Holt

FOR THE Jordan Formula One team, the falls have come before the pride. Denied the signatures of Damon Hill and Nigel Mansell, they will announce today that they have secured the services of one of the brightest young drivers in the sport.

Giancarlo Fisichella, an Italian, may not stir the tidal wave of publicity that either of the British world champions would have created but, along with men like Jan Magnussen, the new Stewart driver, and Jarno Trulli, the Benetton Formula 3 driver, he is one of the leading talents of the next generation of grand-prix drivers.

The decision by Jordan will almost certainly condemn Martin Brundle, a veteran of 158 grands prix, to a place in the ITV commentary box alongside Murray Walker next season. The Jordan drive was his last hope of a competitive challenge and the signing of Fisichella, to partner Ralf Schumacher, probably signals the end of the Englishman's distinguished Formula One career.

There are some at Jordan who feel that the failure to entice Hill or Mansell could have been a blessing in disguise. Fisichella, 23, who has only raced in eight grands prix, and Schumacher, who will be making his debut at the Australian Grand Prix in March, are likely to be closely matched and will push each other throughout the season.

"I'm incredibly excited about Fisichella," Eddie Jordan, the team owner, said. "Like a lot of the other teams, we have been watching him for a long time. We have made some very big changes here and this move is in keeping with that. It is a brand new start. Some people may say you will not win anything with kids but if you have got the car and the engine package, these young guys will give you unrivalled commitment. It is everything for them."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Move to Leeds secures future of Bramley

BRAMLEY, of the second division, are to move in at Headingley next season with Leeds Rhinos and Leeds rugby union club, their erstwhile landlords for the past two years at Kirkstall, which is being sold for development (Christopher Irvine writes).

The move safeguards Bramley's future and the club is to come out of administration. Home games will be in midweek and the club is to remain autonomous by paying to use the ground. The agreement is a further step by Paul Caddick, the new owner, to open up Headingley to the wider Leeds community.

Gary Hetherington, the Leeds rugby league chief executive, said: "Bramley are a club in their own right and will remain so. We want to give more people the opportunity to play professionally, if not with Leeds, then with Bramley. Initially, we are not looking at an exchange of players, but it could be a possibility."

St Helens are asking £200,000 for Steve Prescott, 23, their Great Britain full back, who requested a move after renegotiation of his contract broke down. Featherstone Rovers have agreed terms with Leeds for Paddy Handley, Lee Maher and Paul Gleadhill.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 80 LA Clippers 87; Atlanta 105 Phoenix 103 (OT); Detroit 78 Milwaukee 86; Indiana 95 Cleveland 90; New Jersey 90 San Antonio 74; New York 102 Dallas 72; Orlando 109 Philadelphia 89; Minnesota 95 Houston 104; Seattle 94 Miami 85; Sacramento 96 Denver 109.

BOWLS

ATHERLEY TROPHY: Second round: Durham 84 Yorkshire 143; Nottinghamshire 93 Lincolnshire 127; Cambridgeshire 96 Norfolk 129; Leicestershire 102 Northamptonshire 130; Surrey 89 Middlesex 129; Oxfordshire 114 Buckinghamshire 111; Sussex 105 Berkshire 127; Devon 124 Somerset 95.

CRESTA RUN

ST MORITZ: Stagni Cup: 1, R Garton (GB) 130.88sec; 2, F Burkard (Switz) 131.12; 3, S Ley (Ger) 131.14; 4, P Glender (GB) 132.03; 5, C Tesdorpf (Ger) 132.13; 6, W Hagmann (Switz) 132.29.

DARTS

FRIMLEY GREEN: Embassy world championship (England unless stated). First round: C Monk bt C Hornby 3-0; R Barneveld (Holl) bt S Palfrey (Wales) 3-0; L Wallace (Scot) bt R Taylor (Scot) 3-1; P Williams bt E Clarys (Bel) 3-2. Second round: R Carter (US) bt J Part (Can) 3-1; M James (Wales) bt A Fordham 3-1; S Beaton bt G Wylie (N Ire) 3-0; L Laurens (Bel) bt R Burnett (Wales) 3-0.

FOOTBALL

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Postponed: Halifax v Macclesfield; Telford v Stalybridge.

BELL'S SCOTTISH League: First division: Postponed: Clydebank v St Johnstone. Third division: Ross County v Inverness CT.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Second round: Brechin v Livingston.

Tuesday's late results

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Southern section: Brentford 2 Barnet 1 (aet; Brentford win on golden goal rule); Millwall 2 Colchester 3 (aet: Colchester win on golden goal rule). Watford 2 Torquay 1.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Northern section: York or Preston v Carlisle or Hull; Bury or Mansfield v Burnley or Stockport; Wrexham or Crewe v Blackpool or Lincoln; Shrewsbury or Wigan v Scunthorpe or Notts County. Southern section: Plymouth or Brighton v Northampton or Luton; Brentford v Colchester; Watford v Swansea or Wycombe or Bristol City; Cardiff or Exeter v Peterborough or Walsall.

☐ Ties to be played during the week commencing January 27.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: East Fife 1 Partick 3.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Second round: Ayr 0 Clyde 2.

IRISH LEAGUE COCA-COLA FLOODLIT CUP: First round, second leg: Ards 3 Bangor 1 (Ards win 4-1 on agg); Coleraine 0 Newry 0 (Coleraine win 3-2 on agg); Crusaders 2 Larne 1 (Crusaders win 5-2 on agg); Glentoran 1 Carrick 0 (Glentoran win 5-3 on agg). Linfield 2 Ballyclare 0 (Linfield win 5-0 on agg); Cliftonville 2 Distillery 0 (aet: Cliftonville win 2-1 on agg); Glenavon 0 Ballymena 1 (aet; 2-2 on agg; Glenavon win 3-2 on pens).

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Nottingham Forest 1 Rotherham United 0, Manchester City 1 Leeds United 2; Liverpool 1 Manchester United 2; Norwich City 5 Wycombe Wanderers 1.

☐ All other non-league matches postponed

GOLF

VALDERRAMA, Spain: Apollo Challenge tournament: Leading final scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 69: S Webster. 72: B Tinning (Den). 74: J Higgins, N van Hootegem (Bel). 75: A Tait, N Briggs. 76: S Gallacher. 77: K Vainola (Fin), A Wall, C Watts. 78: J Bickerton, D Muscroft.

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, G Norman (Aus) 11.98pts avg; 2, T Lehman (US) 8.58; 3, C Montgomerie (Scot) 9.15; 4, E Els (SA) 8.40; 5, F Couples (US) 8.05; 6, P Mickelson (US) 7.86; 7, N Faldo (Eng) 7.69; 8, M Ozaki (Japan) 7.58; 9, D Love III (US) 7.40; 10, C Pavin (US) 6.82; 11, M O'Meara (US) 6.61; 12, S Stricker (US) 6.19; 13, N Price (Zim) 6.11; 14, S Hoch (US) 5.74; 15, S Elkington (Aus) 5.42.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: NY Islanders 3 Pittsburgh 5; Philadelphia 7 Boston 3; St Louis 2 Edmonton 5; Calgary 4 Toronto 3; Los Angeles 6 Vancouver 2; San Jose 1 Buffalo 1 (OT).

MOTOR RALLYING

DAKAR-AGADES-DAKAR RALLY: Fourth stage (from Nara to Timbuktoo): Cars: 1, B Saby (Fr, Mitsubishi) 5hr 23min; 2, J-P Fontenay (Fr, Mitsubishi) at 2min 58sec; 3, K Shinozuka (Japan, Mitsubishi) at 6:34; 4, J-L Schlesser (Fr, Buggy) 15:55; 5, H Masuoka (Japan, Mitsubishi) 24:08; 6, J Kleinschmidt (Fr, Buggy) 27:29. Overall positions: 1, Saby 20hr 13min 51sec; 2, Shinozuka at 1:01; 3, Fontenay 2:37; 4, Schlesser 14:03; 5, Masuoka 51:30; 6, T de Lavergne (Fr, Nissan) 1:26:29. Motorcycles: 1, S Peterhansel (Fr, Yamaha) 5hr 28min 55sec; 2, J Arcarons (Sp, KTM) at 23:04; 3, O Gallardo (Sp, Cagiva) 30:20; 4, D von Zitzewitz (Austria, KTM) 30:29; 5, G Moletti (It, Kawasaki) 43:57; 6, D Castera (Fr, Yamaha) 48:24. Overall positions: 1, Peterhansel 20hr 27min 58sec; 2, Arcarons at 1:04:25; 3, Gallardo 1:57:22; 4, J Lewis (US, KTM) 2:01:38; 5, G Jimmink (Holl, KTM) 2:02:07; 6, Castera 2:03:04.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Pontypridd 13 United States XV 15.

ANGLO WELSH CUP: Pool 1B: Postponed: Swansea v Bath.

SQUASH

SUPER LEAGUE: ICL LionHerts 2 Surbiton 1 (LionHerts names first: D Harris bt T Hands 8-6, 5-9, 9-5, 9-3, 9-6; M Chaloner lost to D Meddings 9-5, 4-9, 8-10, 7-9; D Jenson bt N Dugan 6-9, 9-6, 8-10, 9-3, 9-6); Danraven Maesteg 1 Rowlands Manchester Northern 2 (Maesteg names first: M Cairns bt D Ryan 4-9, 9-4, 4-9, 9-2, 9-4; P Gregory lost to A Gough 6-9, 9-5, 1-9, 9-1, 7-9; D Evans lost to N Taylor 9-6, 4-9, 7-9, 5-9).

TABLE TENNIS

KETTERING: English Open: Men: Singles: Preliminary group winners: C Thompson (Kent); G Chapman (Surrey); P Marshall (Yorks); D Blake (Surrey); E Smith (Northumberland); M Rogers (Aus); J Dennison (Essex); B Johnson (Berks). Selected preliminary results: Chapman bt D Mottram (Surrey) 21-13, 19-21, 21-13; Rogers bt S Shaw (Derbys) 21-17, 21-15; Johnson bt N Charles (Middx) 21-13, 29-27; Marshall bt P Wood (Notts) 21-9, 21-15; Smith bt E Roofe (Wilts) 21-8, 21-18; Thompson bt N McKoy (Middx) 21-16, 21-14; Thompson bt N Eckersley (Lancs) 23-21, 21-11; Smith bt J Sugrue (Eng) 21-12, 11-21, 21-18.

TENNIS

SYDNEY: International tournament: Men: Second round: P Rafter (Aus) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 6-7, 7-5, 7-6; B Black (Zim) w/o T Woodbridge (Aus) scr; A Costa (Sp) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 6-2, 6-2; C Moya (Sp) bt G Stafford (SA) 6-2, 6-3; A O'Brien (US) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-4, 6-7, 6-4; S Stolle (Aus) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-2, 6-1; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 6-4, 0-6, 6-4; T Henman (GB) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. Women: Second round: M J Fernandez (US) bt K Po (US) 6-2, 6-4; L Davenport (US) bt L Raymond (US) 6-3, 6-4; J Capriati (US) bt R Simpson (Can) 6-3, 6-2; N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 7-5, 6-3.

AUCKLAND: Men's tournament: Second round: J Novak (Cz) bt C Mamiit (US) 6-4, 6-2; H Gumy (Arg) bt N Kulti (Swe) 6-3, 6-1; A Radulescu (Ger) bt T Johansson (Swe) 7-6, 6-4; K Carlsen (Den) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 6-3, 6-3.

MELBOURNE: Men's exhibition tournament: First round: P Sampras (US) bt M Stich (Ger) 6-4, 7-5; B Becker (Ger) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 7-6, 6-1; M Chang (US) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 7-5, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Rus) bt J Courier (US) 7-6, 6-4.

HOBART: Women's tournament: Third round: A Ellwood (Aus) bt S Drake-Brockman (Aus) 6-2, 6-4; Shi-Ting Wang (Taiwan) bt M Grzybowska (Pol) 6-1, 6-3; E Callens (Bel) bt E Likhovtseva (Rus) 1-6, 7-6, 0-2 ret; M Endo (Japan) bt A Miller (US) 6-3, 7-6.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Jan 1: Treble chance, game of two halves: 24pts: one prize £549,841.80; 23: 15 prizes £5,949.35; 22: 316 prizes £249.75; 21: 2,873 prizes £46.80. Half time result: 24pts 105 prizes £2,380.45. Jan 4: Treble chance game of two halves: 24pts 34 prizes £32,585.85; 23: 214 prizes £529.10; 22: 3,075 prizes £32.05; 21: 16,765 prizes £9.95. Four draws: 115 prizes £25.90. 10 homes 339 prizes of £12.15. 5 aways 759 prizes £9. Half time result 24pts, max 18 prizes £13,274.35.

VERNONS: Jan 4: Treble Chance: 24 points £37,085.80; 23 points £230.45; 22 points £28.45. Super Scoop: [illegible]. Premier 10 (paid on 8 correct) £21.95.

ZETTERS: Jan 4: Treble chance: 24pts £10,246.75; 23 £59.40; 22 £3.50; 21 £0.70. Four draws £25.90. Eight homes £2.00. Four aways £11.00. Super 7 £825.00. First eight (no max 16, 15 or 14pts): 13pts £54.65; 12 £0.70; 11 £0.55. Lucky numbers: 11 8 20 3 15 38.

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cup: Cardiff v Bristol City (2.0).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bolton v Derby (7.0). Second division: Stockport v York (6.45).

OTHER SPORT

DARTS: Embassy world championship (at Frimley Green).

HOCKEY: Four-nations indoor tournament (Dundee and Edinburgh).

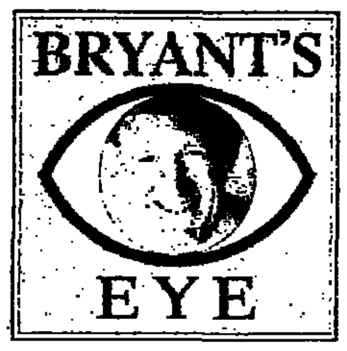
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle v Nottingham (7.0); Cardiff v Sheffield (7.40).

TABLE TENNIS: English Open (at Kettering).

هكذا من الأصل

When the going gets icy, real sportsmen get gloves

Radcliffe: work rate



BRYANT'S EYE

Do real sportsmen wear gloves? Or, for that matter, tights, vests and woolly hats? As the British winter bites, increasing numbers of footballers have taken to wrapping up for warmth — much to the scorn of the footballing purists.

Of course they expect it of foreign players. Jürgen Klinsmann was fond of his gloves when playing in England, and players such as Zola, Emerson and Ravanelli have made them a common sight on pitches this chilly season. But as the cold spell lingers, homegrown players are rapidly catching the habit. John Barnes has been wearing gloves for seasons, but he has been joined by Paul Merson, of Arsenal, and soon they will be everywhere.

Remember the breathe-better nose-plasters that started appearing last season? Soon everyone was wearing them and they could be seen on noses at Twickenham, Wembley, Wimbledon and on the streets of the London Marathon. Last season noses, this season gloves, and the new trend has predictably led to ridicule, from the terraces and from the press. "Who's the wimp in the woolly mittens?" one recent headline asked. British footballers, it seems, are expected to forget frozen fingers. Some this season have ignored such stupidly macho prejudice and pulled on thermal vests, cycling-type neoprene undershorts, and even tights.

Inevitably such outfits have been met with boos from the stands — which is crazy. For at last footballers are being adult enough to acknowledge what sportsmen in other disciplines have known for decades — that the human body performs best at certain optimum temperatures, and that there is a good physiological case for keeping warm. It may be macho, but it is simply inefficient to exercise with ice blocks on the ends of your arms.

'Some know the value of wrapping up'

Athletes, particularly runners, who would do anything to gain the odd second, have long known the value of wrapping up to perform well when the weather turns bitter. The work rate of a top-class cross-country runner, for instance, is far more continuous than that of a footballer. But although the exercising body is a furnace creating its own heat, you will see runners such as Paula Radcliffe, the Great Britain international, wearing gloves on icy days, and even tights when appropriate.

In the 1950s, before tights surplanted stockings in the woman's wardrobe, most sportsmen had a difficult time getting their hands on a pair. *Athletics Weekly* of that era carried quaint advertisements for "ballet tights", but it was a brave man who would turn up for weight training at his local gym wearing them.

Everything changed in the long, frozen winter of 1963. The icy conditions coincided with the arrival in the shops of tights and athletes, male and female, sensibly took to sporting them.

In any branch of sport there is a battle between what is functional dress and what is fashionable. So today you can witness the puzzling sight of women cross-country runners, striding through an icy winter, clad in gloves to keep their hands warm, but wearing sports bra tops to show a bare midriff. A similar contradiction can be seen on the football field, where gloved hands and shaven heads make an unlikely combination.

Sports such as skiing and mountaineering not only demand efficiently insulated clothing, but actually owe advances in performance to improvements in clothing. The actor-mountaineer, Brian Blessed, dreamt of recreating George Mallory's ascent of Everest in 1924. Blessed attempted the climb wearing the same type of clothing as Mallory wore, and was made painfully aware of how far protective winter clothing has progressed.

Modern sporting outfits incorporate specialised materials such as Gore-Tex and Lycra, and the wonderful fact is that sport is possible under almost any conditions if you dress appropriately.

'Outfits have been met with boos'

One of the most curious games of cricket took place in Antarctica in 1984 — 400 miles from the South Pole, at an altitude of 6,000 feet and temperature of -40C.

The Antarctic players would not have thought much of what happened at Fenner's on April 25, 1981, when a first-class match between Cambridge University and Essex was halted because of the cold. The bowlers were unable to grip the ball and Pringle, the Cambridge batsman, wearing contact lenses, was troubled by his eyes streaming and could not see.

Cricketers wrapped up better in October 1859, when the English touring team in North America fielded in muffs and greatcoats, and again in the winter of 1889-90, when Mr E. Hammond's XI played Mr H. Crowhurst's XI on ice at Storrington. Sensibly conserving their body heat, all the players wore top hats.

British prejudice that the wearing of gloves in sport is a strange foreign affectation may have its roots in the first modern Olympics of 1896 in Athens. A dapper, eccentric little runner named Albin Lermusieux, whose specialities were an amazing, and never-to-be repeated double — the 100 metres and the marathon — did all his racing in white silk gloves, but then he was, after all, a Frenchman.

Traditionalists who mock the sight of gloves and tights in football, seem to want players locked forever in costumes that hark back to hard men in icy changing-rooms in the game's Victorian past. They should remember that keeping warm in sport is neither new nor soft. This winter they should forget cold baths and frozen fingers. If they want to play at their best, real sportsmen should pull on the gloves.

JOHN BRYANT

Zola: foreign trend

RUGBY UNION: ROWELL NAMES SQUAD OF 30 FOR ENGLAND'S FIVE NATIONS' CAMPAIGN

Back called up for national service

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT

Back in favour: the Leicester open-side flanker reflects yesterday on his recall to the England squad for the five nations' championship

JACK ROWELL, the England coach, has opened the new year in expansive mood, reflecting perhaps the style of play that he hopes his side will develop during the five nations' championship. Moreover, at Twickenham yesterday he hinted at the possibility of change in the key tactical areas of half back and back row.

Rowell announced a senior squad of 30, aimed, subject to the usual provisos of form and fitness, not just at England's opening championship match, with Scotland on February 1 at Twickenham, but the entire season. At the same time, 40 players were named in an A squad for the games against Otago and Scotland on January 31, the most successful of whom will tour to Argentina this summer.

Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, has been recalled to the seniors, where he is joined, for the first time, by Will Greenwood, his club colleague. Greenwood, a strapping 6ft 5in centre, is now perceived as the main threat to the established trio of Phil de Glanville, Jeremy Guscott and Will Carling, ahead of Nick Greenstock, of Wasps, who is confined to the A squad.

Rowell, unlike some of his critics, is right to indicate the problems inherent in change, both of personnel and style, which arose during the three pre-Christmas internationals, against Italy, the New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina. It is also right that he should demonstrate flexibility, though the extent of that will become apparent only when the XV to play Scotland is named on January 20.

Before Christmas England invested time in the bigger back-row players — Tim Rodber, Lawrence Dallaglio, Chris Sheasby and, as a replacement, Ben Clarke. "We have a lot of powerful, running forwards, but we have to get the linkage going," Rowell said. "If the linking can't be done by the personnel who have played already, we will make appropriate changes."

That can be done in one of two ways: readjusting the existing back row of Sheasby, Rodber and Dallaglio, or introducing the specialist open-side flanker, as represented by Back or Richard Hill, of Saracens.

"Dallaglio had a good season and helped us to win the championship last year," Rowell said. "More recently he has been playing blind side for Wasps and we have to look at what that means. Perhaps, if Lawrence plays No 6 for his club, it could take away the sharp edge that the open side needs.

"My view has been to go with the big men, but only if they can do the job. You have to organise ball out of the tackle, you have to take ball forward, you have to make tackles. Small men may be able to react quicker to the ball in the tackle and Back is one of the best. We have watched what he has been doing in recent games, since his return from suspension, and against Toulouse last weekend he looked back to his best."

Hill, Back's open-side rival, is by no means a small man and, like Dallaglio, has played blind side and No 8 before settling into his role with Saracens, but the strengths of Back's game depend upon the approach of his colleagues. Leicester are changing and England are striving to do the same, therefore a new vista could open up for a player whose ball skills are probably unparalleled in England.

Rowell, though, has been forced to lament the absence of options at stand-off half. "Number tens are drying up in England; we are being strangled by players coming in from overseas," he said. "There are a lot of talented young men held in big club squads who are not getting their chance."

Mike Catt's hold on the stand-off position is threatened by Paul Grayson and Alex King, and Rowell admitted that the position was under review.

The need for England's style to change was candidly admitted, too. "It's a global game and we are competing on that basis," Rowell said. "People pay handsome money to see international rugby and expect to see the best." In that respect, although Rowell — himself the subject at the weekend of a whispering campaign that suggested that his tenure of office was all but over — is happy with his coaching colleagues, Les Cusworth and Mike Slemen, he revealed that he had been in touch with Brian Ashton.

Rowell and Ashton worked together at Bath for four years, but Ashton parted company with the club earlier this week and is now seeking alternative employment.

"It's in my mind to involve Brian. I rate him very highly," Rowell said. "We had a cracking working relationship at Bath and good backs coaches are thin on the ground. Brian has experience of success, in an environment where it is expected every week."

ENGLAND SQUADS

FIVE NATIONS: Full backs: N Beal (Northampton), J Callard (Bath), T Stimpson (Newcastle) Wings: J Sleightholme (Bath), T Underwood (Newcastle), A Adebayo (Bath). Centres: W Carling (Harlequins), P de Glanville (Bath), W Greenwood (Leicester), J Guscott (Bath). Stand-offs: M Catt (Bath), A King (Wasps). P Grayson (Northampton). Scrum halves: A Gomarsall (Wasps), K Bracken (Saracens). Props: G Rowntree (Leicester), J Leonard (Harlequins), R Hardwick (Coventry), D Garforth (Leicester). Hookers: M Regan (Bristol), P Greening (Gloucester). Locks: M Johnson (Leicester), S Shaw (Bristol). G Archer (Newcastle) Back row: T Rodber (Northampton), L Dallaglio (Wasps), C Sheasby (Wasps), N Back (Leicester), R Hill (Saracens), B Clarke (Richmond)

A SQUAD: Full backs: C Catling (Gloucester). J Mallinder (Sale). I Hunter (Northampton) Wings: D Luger (Harlequins). D Rees (Sale). S Bromley (Harlequins), H Thorneycroft (Northampton). B Johnson (Army and Newbury). Centres: N Greenstock (Wasps), M Allen (Northampton), A Blythe (Newcastle), P Mensah (Harlequins) Stand-offs: M Mapletoft (Gloucester). R Liley (Leicester). P Challinor (Harlequins). Scrum halves: A Healey (Leicester). S Benton (Gloucester) N Walshe (Harlequins) Props: M Volland (Northampton). K Yates (Bath) D Molloy (Wasps). J Mallett (Bath). V Ubogu (Bath) W Green (Wasps) Hookers: R Cockerill (Leicester), D West (Leicester), G French (Bath), S Diamond (Sale) Locks: C Murphy (West Hartlepool) D Sims (Gloucester), R Fidler (Glouc). J Fowler (Dale), R West (Richmond) D Grewcock (Coventry) Back row: S Ojomoh (Bath), R Jenkins (Harlequins), A Diprose (Saracens), G Allison (Harlequins) M Corry (Bristol), P Anglesey (Orrell).

Troubled Ireland forced to regroup

By David Hands

IRELAND will reveal today their proposed coaching structure for the five nations' championship, the imminence of which was emphasised yesterday by the announcement of a powerful France squad for the game in Dublin on January 18.

Having decided late on Tuesday to dispense with the coaching services of the New Zealander, Murray Kidd, the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) has little enough time to put an alternative structure in place. Players who have suffered three international defeats this season will have to adjust to a newcomer at the eleventh hour.

Pat Whelan, the manager, has coaching experience to offer while another possible candidate is Jerry Holland, who coached Munster to the inter-provincial title this season. If structure is to count for anything, though, the Ireland A coach, David Haslett, should enter the equation.

The IRFU hoped that Kidd, the country's first paid national coach, would take the team to the 1999 World Cup but adverse results, notably against Western Samoa and Italy, forced him to announce his resignation. A caretaker coach seems likely to be appointed with a review before the summer visit to New Zealand.

Many in Ireland would like to see Willie Anderson involved once more and, had he remained with Dungannon, that could have been the first option. But only last month he agreed to become director of rugby with London Irish.

Meanwhile France, who have invited Pierre Villepreux to join the national panel, have recalled Fabien Galthié to the 21-strong squad for the game at Lansdowne Road. The scrum half has not played for his country since the 1995 World Cup but now replaces Guy Accocceberry. The captaincy remains with Abdelatif Benazzi since injury will keep Philippe Saint-André out for the remainder of the season.

FRANCE: Backs: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers), D Venditti (Brive), E Ntamack (Toulouse), T Castaignède (Toulouse) R Dourthe (Dax). S Glas (Bourgoin). C Lamaison (Brive). A Penaud (Brive) O Carbonneau (Brive), F Galthié (Colomiers) Forwards: C Califano (Toulouse), F Tournaire (Narbonne). J-L Jordana (Toulouse). M dal Maso (Agen) M de Rougemont (Toulon). O Merle (Montferrand). F Pelous (Dax). H Miorin (Toulouse), A Benazzi (Agen, captain) P Benetton (Agen), R Castel (Béziers)

Richmond ready to sign Atherton

TWO of the wealthy denizens of the Courage second division, Bedford and Richmond, are moving into the transfer market again (David Hands writes). Bedford have contacted Bath about the possible loan of two young forwards, Kevin Yates and Neil McCarthy, while Richmond are expected to announce tomorrow the signing of the former South Africa lock, Steve Atherton.

Bedford lie second in the division, four points behind Richmond who have been linked with Atherton for some months. The Natal player, 31, was involved in negotiations with Bath but his price tag was deemed too high and they are looking instead at German Llanes, the Argentina lock.

Bedford need to bolster their tight five. "We are looking to recruit a number of forwards because we have no strength in depth in certain positions," Paul Turner, their player-coach, said. Bath are assessing the situation but there is no doubt that such promising players as Yates, an England A prop, and McCarthy, who has hooked for England Under-21s, would benefit from more first-team exposure.

Yates has started only four league and Heineken Cup matches this season, since Bath prefer David Hilton, the Scotland loose-head prop. McCarthy finds himself behind not only Graham Dawe and Gary French, but Bath's latest recruit, Federico Méndez, from Argentina.

Moseley are to appeal against the decision to deprive them of two league points for fielding an unregistered player against Bedford in November. "We will take it back to the Rugby Football Union's competitions sub-committee and to higher authority if necessary," Peter Veitch, the Moseley chairman, said.

Moseley played Andy Freke, a lock, while he was still registered for Woodrush but believe they should be treated leniently because they were in difficulty raising a side.

Only 10,000 tickets have been sold for the international in Cardiff on Saturday between Wales and United States, a reflection of the fact that Wales have already played four internationals this season and the low-key nature of the Americans' tour, partly caused by the freezing weather.

Wainwright returns as Scots ring the changes

By Mark Souster

Wainwright: recovered

ROB WAINWRIGHT, the former Scotland captain who, because of injury, last played international rugby in June, against New Zealand, has been recalled for the opening match of the five nations' championship against Wales at Murrayfield on Saturday week. Given the dearth of world-class players at Scotland's disposal, Wainwright's return in a much-changed 21-man squad announced yesterday, was inevitable once he had proved his fitness in helping Caledonia to the inter-district championship last weekend.

He is certain to win his 25th cap in a reshaped back row from which Eric Peters has been ommitted and Ian Smith is absent through injury. The selectors have yet to name a captain, but it would appear to be a choice between Wainwright, 31, and Gregor Townsend, his successor in the last three games. If he enjoys a successful championship then Wainwright must be a contender to lead the British Isles to South Africa this summer.

Apart from Peters, three players have been dropped from the squad that faced Italy, among them Damian Cronin, the experienced Wasps lock forward, who was replaced during the 29-22 victory. Barry Stewart, the Edinburgh Academicals prop forward, and Derrick Patterson, the Heriot's scrum half, have also been demoted. In come Shade Munro, of Glasgow High-Kelvinside, who recently returned from a season with Bay of Plenty, Tom Smith, the Watsonians prop, Peter Walton, and Gary Armstrong, who missed the game against Italy because of injury.

Although he talked bullishly yesterday of regaining his place, Cronin's demotion could spell the end of his international career. Peters was hurt early in the match against Italy and with hindsight should have come off. That aside, it is felt that both he and Cronin have "underperformed" recently. Walton who was watched by Richie Dixon, the Scotland coach, playing for Newcastle against West Hartlepool, will probably play at No 6, allowing Murray Wallace to switch sides to his favoured position with Wainwright at No 8.

The debate over the respective merits of Craig Chalmers and Townsend at stand-off half will continue whoever is chosen at No 10 when the team is finalised next Tuesday. It seems likely though that the back division that showed impressive progress against Italy will be kept intact, which means more frustration for Townsend at inside centre, a position from which he does, however, create space for others to exploit. There might be an argument for opting for the individual flair of Armstrong at scrum half, but that would mean sacrificing Redpath's better service.

The selectors have also given hope to Alan Tait and George Graham, now both at Newcastle, having returned from rugby league, that a place in the full side is not out of the question. The one real area of concern surrounds a goal kicker. Rowen Shepherd lost his rhythm against Italy and David Aldred, the kicking coach, is due at Murrayfield next week. The problem for Scotland is that not one member of the squad kicks regularly for his club.

SQUAD

To play Wales, January 18

BACKS: G Armstrong (Newcastle), C Chalmers (Melrose), R Eriksson (London Scottish), S Hastings (Watsonians). K Logan (Stirling County), B Redpath (Melrose), R Shepherd (Melrose), A Stanger (Hawick), D Stark (Melrose). G Townsend (Northampton).

FORWARDS: G Ellis (Currie), D Hilton (Bath), K McKenzie (Stirling County) S Munro (Glasgow High/Kelvinside). A Reed (Wasps). T Smith (Watsonians). M Stewart (Northampton). R Wainwright (Watsonians). M Wallace (Glasgow High/Kelvinside). P Walton (Newcastle). G Weir (Newcastle)

Referee: A Smith (Ireland)

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	60	180	good	powder	good	snow	2	8/1
(Fantastic conditions everywhere)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	10	48	fair	varied	icy	fine	-5	4/1
(Good snow to be found, brilliant sunshine)								
Mayrhofen	5	70	fair	varied	closed	fair	-1	24/12
(Pistes well groomed but hard-packed: all 28 lifts open)								
FRANCE								
Méribel	65	140	good	varied	good	snow	-2	8/1
(Snow conditions excellent, more snow expected)								
La Plagne	100	190	good	varied	fair	snow	-3	8/1
(Pistes firm but still good fun: snow falling)								
La Tania	100	135	good	varied	good	cloud	0	5/1
(Great snowcover and very good skiing)								
Tignes	110	200	good	varied	good	snow	-4	8/1
(Great skiing but some icy patches below 2,000m)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	150	440	good	powder	good	cloud	-6	7/1
(Superb conditions at all altitudes)								
Cortina	70	140	good	powder	good	sun	0	7/1
(Perfect ski conditions)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	60	160	fair	crust	icy	fair	-5	4/1
Generally good but some runs getting icy								
Villars	30	110	good	varied	icy	cloud	0	4/1
Cold temperatures maintaining snow well								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper: art - artificial.

Football's high achievers not immune to pressure in modern game

Keegan buckles under stress factor

By Russell Kempson

KENNY DALGLISH did it, after leading Liverpool to an abundance of trophies; Steve Coppell did it, after only 33 days in charge at Manchester City; and Terry Cooper did it, after finding it all too much at little Exeter City. Yesterday, Kevin Keegan did it too.

After taking Newcastle United as far as he felt he could, he walked away. The stress and strain of being a football manager had, apparently, claimed another victim. Another bald statistic in a high pressure, high stakes profession that transforms genial, sympathetic souls into greying, mistrusting cynics.

Management has never been for the faint-hearted yet, nowadays, the demands and expectations have increased beyond all reason. League managers, many barely out of their boots, have to be coaches, accountants and confidantes, motivators, mother hens and bullies, media manipulators and experts in international relations.

Rarely is there a respite. Club chairmen, many untutored in the sport's finer points, view failure as a capital offence, players' salaries have become as inflated as their egos, and supporters are never satisfied — win, lose or draw. Success is measured only in silverware.

Mike Walker, back with Norwich City after a brief, unsuccessful spell at Everton, copes better than most. "Personally, I find it quite enjoyable, I like the challenge," he said. "But there is a lot of pressure, it's that sort of job. You are expected to win games yesterday, never mind tomorrow or the next day."

John Camkin, secretary of the League Managers' Association (LMA), said: "There is no doubt the stakes have gone up in recent years, especially with so much money in the game. It is probable the stress factor has increased with it but it is difficult to know how to address the problem. Managers go into it with their eyes open."

Kenny Dalglish left Anfield in February 1991, ending a 14-year association with the club as player and manager. He had won more medals than the most decorated war veterand yet the walls were closing in. "It is not a decision I just woke up to," he said. "The biggest problem was the pressure I was putting myself under because of the desire to be successful. I had become unpleasant company at home. I was shouting at the kids. It became pretty obvious I had to get out."

Dalglish re-emerged at Blackburn Rovers, winning the championship in 1995, but, again, stepped down, taking on the unspecific role of director of football. He finally left five months ago.

Coppell, the former Crystal Palace manager, has always been similarly uneasy in the public spotlight yet he still accepted the poisoned chalice at Manchester City in October. Within a fortnight, he was reported to have consulted a stress counsellor; in November, after taking medical advice, he concluded his brief stay at Maine Road.

"I'm not ashamed to admit that I have suffered for some time from the huge pressure I have imposed on myself," he said. "Since my appointment, this has completely overwhelmed me to such an extent that I cannot function in the job in the way I would like to."

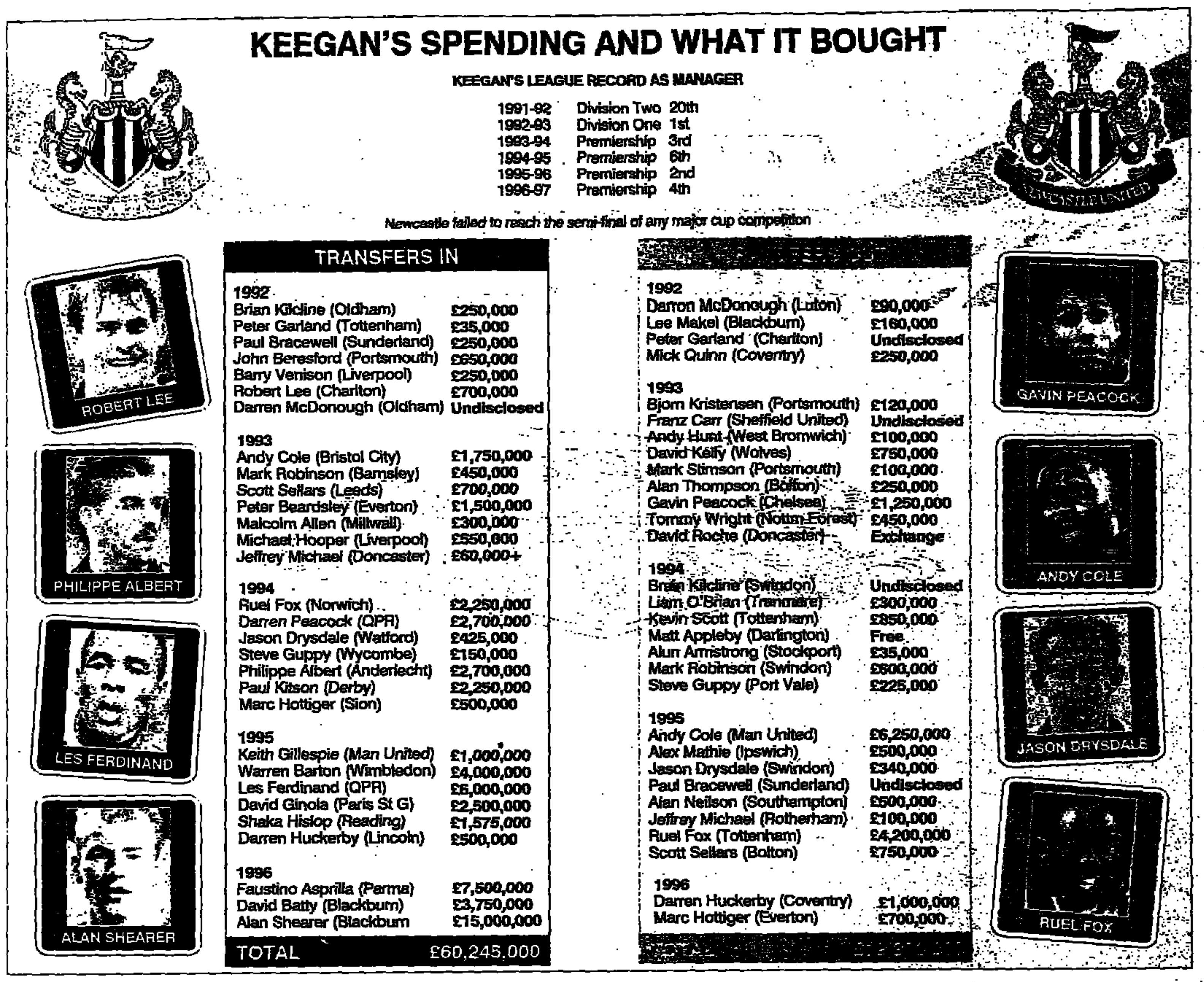
Even in the lower reaches of the Nationwide League, problems lurk. Cooper, the former England and Leeds United defender, eventually buckled at Exeter in June 1995. The club was beset by financial troubles, with Cooper having to combine managing with sundry other duties. Redundancies were rife.

"I'd felt under stress for some time then it just hit me," he said. "I was driving home from watching a game and I had to pull over to the side of the road and phone for help. I couldn't drive another yard. I was the last person I thought would be affected."

Cooper subsequently resigned and, after recuperating in Tenerife, is now assistant to Graeme Souness at Southampton. He is the only LMA member to have collected from the association's insurance cover for managers who leave because of accident or illness.

Jack Lamport-Mitchell, a leading sports psychologist, said yesterday: "Some people crack up because the job gets to them, some go away before the actual crack-up occurs, when the signs and symptoms are on the horizon." Emlyn Hughes, Keegan's former Liverpool team-mate, said: "He's been different recently. He's aged 20 years in three months."

Keegan, perhaps, had seen over the horizon.



KEEGAN'S SPENDING AND WHAT IT BOUGHT

KEEGAN'S LEAGUE RECORD AS MANAGER

1991-92	Division Two	20th
1992-93	Division One	1st
1993-94	Premiership	3rd
1994-95	Premiership	6th
1995-96	Premiership	2nd
1996-97	Premiership	4th

Newcastle failed to reach the semi-final of any major cup competition

TRANSFERS IN	
1992	
Brian Kilcline (Oldham)	£250,000
Peter Garland (Tottenham)	£35,000
Paul Bracewell (Sunderland)	£250,000
John Beresford (Portsmouth)	£650,000
Barry Venison (Liverpool)	£250,000
Robert Lee (Charlton)	£700,000
Darren McDonough (Oldham)	Undisclosed
1993	
Andy Cole (Bristol City)	£1,750,000
Mark Robinson (Barnsley)	£450,000
Scott Sellars (Leeds)	£700,000
Peter Beardsley (Everton)	£1,500,000
Malcolm Allen (Millwall)	£300,000
Michael Hooper (Liverpool)	£550,000
Jeffrey Michael (Doncaster)	£60,000+
1994	
Ruel Fox (Norwich)	£2,250,000
Darren Peacock (QPR)	£2,700,000
Jason Drysdale (Watford)	£425,000
Steve Guppy (Wycombe)	£150,000
Philippe Albert (Anderlecht)	£2,700,000
Paul Kitson (Derby)	£2,250,000
Marc Hottiger (Sion)	£500,000
1995	
Keith Gillespie (Man United)	£1,000,000
Warren Barton (Wimbledon)	£4,000,000
Les Ferdinand (QPR)	£6,000,000
David Ginola (Paris St G)	£2,500,000
Shaka Hislop (Reading)	£1,575,000
Darren Huckerby (Lincoln)	£500,000
1996	
Faustino Asprilla (Parma)	£7,500,000
David Batty (Blackburn)	£3,750,000
Alan Shearer (Blackburn	£15,000,000
TOTAL	£60,245,000

TRANSFERS OUT	
1992	
Darron McDonough (Luton)	£90,000
Lee Makel (Blackburn)	£160,000
Peter Garland (Charlton)	Undisclosed
Mick Quinn (Coventry)	£250,000
1993	
Bjorn Kristensen (Portsmouth)	£120,000
Franz Carr (Sheffield United)	Undisclosed
Andy Hunt (West Bromwich)	£100,000
David Kelly (Wolves)	£750,000
Mark Stimson (Portsmouth)	£100,000
Alan Thompson (Bolton)	£250,000
Gavin Peacock (Chelsea)	£1,250,000
Tommy Wright (Nottm Forest)	£450,000
David Roche (Doncaster)	Exchange
1994	
Brian Kilcline (Swindon)	Undisclosed
Liam O'Brian (Tranmere)	£300,000
Kevin Scott (Tottenham)	£850,000
Matt Appleby (Darlington)	Free
Alun Armstrong (Stockport)	£35,000
Mark Robinson (Swindon)	£600,000
Steve Guppy (Port Vale)	£225,000
1995	
Andy Cole (Man United)	£6,250,000
Alex Mathie (Ipswich)	£500,000
Jason Drysdale (Swindon)	£340,000
Paul Bracewell (Sunderland)	Undisclosed
Alan Neilson (Southampton)	£500,000
Jeffrey Michael (Rotherham)	£100,000
Ruel Fox (Tottenham)	£4,200,000
Scott Sellars (Bolton)	£750,000
1996	
Darren Huckerby (Coventry)	£1,000,000
Marc Hottiger (Everton)	£700,000

Keegan: decided five years was enough

Dalglish: got out when family began to suffer

Defeat that signalled the end of the road?

By Mark Hodkinson

WE SHUFFLE in obediently. A few pocket tape recorders are placed on the desk before the manager. He waits patiently for the first question. It is always a leading one: "Well, what do you think about that then ..?"

Usually, we know what they think but we want them to say it anyway. Like the after-match press conference itself, the actual words of wisdom are merely protocol. The matches change, but the words are, more or less, the same.

There was, however, something distinctly different about Kevin Keegan at around 5.45pm on Thursday, December 26, 1996. His team had lost 1-0 to Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park. They had not played particularly well but their manager looked like death in a tracksuit.

We have since learnt that this press conference followed a bawling session with his players and precipitated his announcement the next day to Newcastle United's directors that he wanted to leave the club.

A few fractured, nervous voices broke out from amid the overcoats. "What did you think, Kevin?" Keegan proffered his response warily. "We're not playing well and I'm not going to kid you otherwise. We had chances but they didn't go in," he said. The floor held his attention.

There was a lull in the questions and Keegan saw it immediately as a cue to leave. As he headed for the exit he mumbled a complaint that was hard to hear but seemed to amount to an acknowledgment that he had fulfilled the FA Carling Premiership code by enduring the press conference.

KEVIN KEEGAN FACTFILE

1951: Born Armthorpe, Yorkshire, February 14
1968: Joined Scunthorpe United as apprentice
1971: Transferred to Liverpool for £35,000
1972: England debut v Wales in Cardiff.
1977: Transferred to SV Hamburg for £500,000
1980: Transferred to Southampton for £420,000
1982: Last England game as substitute v Spain in Madrid 1982 World Cup. Won 63 caps, scored 21 goals
1982: Transferred to Newcastle United for £100,000
1984: Retired from playing
1992: Returned to soccer in February as manager of Newcastle and three months later signed a three-year contract
1993: Newcastle promoted to FA Premier League as first division champions
1994: Keegan appointed Director of Football and agrees new deal that ties him to club for next ten years.
1996: Newcastle finish runners-up to Manchester United in the Premiership. Breaks world transfer record by paying Blackburn £15 million for Alan Shearer, the England striker
1997: Resigns as manager of Newcastle on January 8.

Honours

Football League Championship medals: 1972-73, 1975-76, 1976-77.
FA Cup winner: 1974
European Cup winner: 1977.
Uefa Cup winner: 1973, 1976
Footballer of the Year: 1975-76.
European Footballer of the Year: 1977-78, 78-79.
PFA Player of the Year: 1981-82
First division Manager of the Season: 1992-93.

SHOOTING FROM THE LIP

KEVIN KEEGAN had little to say during his final dark days at St James' Park, but in the previous five years he could hardly contain himself . . .

February 1992 *(on his appointment at Newcastle)*: "This is the only job I have ever wanted in football."

October 1993 *(when questioned on the wisdom of dropping Lee Clark)*: "If the chairman doesn't like what I'm doing he can always sack me."

December 1993: "The England job would be very nice, lovely. But not yet. There is no way I'm walking out on Newcastle now."

February 1994 *(on threatening to quit over fan abuse aimed at Mike Hooper, then the Newcastle goalkeeper)*: "I won't have it as long as I'm at this club. That may not be too long if other people decide who comes and goes. If that happens the only one who'll go is me."

May 1994 *(reflecting on his walkout, after 39 days in charge, back in 1992)*: "I took the job on the basis of a three-month consultancy. When I fulfilled my brief to keep Newcastle up, I walked away from it. I know of two managers approached at that time to take the job. There was a split board. I realised getting money for new players might be a problem. It wasn't like the brochure."

May 1994 *(on signing a ten-year contract)*: "This definitely rules me out of the England post. This is my England up here. The missus says I'll be 53 and grey when this contract ends. I told her I'm 43 and grey now. It's in my hands to take this club on a decade of real adventure."

November 1994: "The day that we are happy we'll have won the league, we'll be going into the [European] Champions' League and we'll still be looking. The minute that this club moves sideways I'll be gone."

January 1995: "I wouldn't swap our front pair of Peter Beardsley and Andy Cole for anyone else in the world."

January 1995 *(Four days later, after selling Cole to Manchester United)*: "This was an offer we could not refuse. I felt it was right that we sell him for the long-term future of the club. It was my decision and I'm sticking by it."

February 1995: "We have to aim for the sky. That might not even be the limit."

October 1995: "My plan has never been less than winning the championship."

April 1996 *(on criticism of Faustino Asprilla)*: "Tino's had so much rubbish thrown at him he has every right to wish he hadn't come here."

Asprilla: criticism

May 1996: "This club has become an institution. Everybody wants to come and see us train. A lot of fans can't get into the stadium for matches, anyway. We have gone back to the fans more than any club in the country and I'm proud of that."

June 1996: "If the board ever said 'no' when I wanted to buy that would have been the end of our momentum. Once they start saying no I suppose my reign will be coming to an end."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

JOVENCEL
(c) A young man, a youth. Through Old French and Italian from the Latin *juvenculus*, the diminutive of *juvencus* young. "One of the jovencels that thus did sport himself there."

KILLBUCK
***(a) A fierce-looking fellow, ie one who might be supposed to kill* a buck, whereas a *killcow* was a cowardly swashbuckler, bully or braggadocio. Chapman, *The Widow's Tears*, c 1605: "Well, have you done now, Ladie?" "O my sweet killbuck!" "You now in your *shallow pate think this* a disgrace to me."**

HALSING
(a) Embracing, an embrace. From the Old High German *halse* a neck, and *halsan* to throw one's arms around the neck of. Walter Scott, *Noble Moringer*, 1819: "He halsed and kiss'd his dearest dame." "Affable without halsing or kissing."

JULIO
(c) A silver coin worth about sixpence when the *OED* was treating the letter "J" a century ago. Struck by Pope Julius II (1503-13), formerly current in Italy. An eponym. "A fellow *extorted a Julio with his gun.*"

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bxf7! leaves Black without a decent reply, the main point being 1 ... Rxf7 2 Qg8 checkmate

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RADIO CHOICE

A university for flies

The University. *Radio 4, 9.30am.*

The flies were not only on the walls but swarming all over the place when producer Brian King made this seven-part series about academic, administrative and social life at Warwick University. And what did those microphones manage to pick up for today's launching instalment? There's pre-election campaigning for president of the students' union. There's the first rumbling of protest over plans to impose a £300 entry fee on incoming undergraduates. There's a punch-up at a students' dance ("And this is the brains of the future!", muses a bemused security man). And the university Vice-Chancellor, giving one of his rare lectures, recalls how he shaved a camel with an electric shaver.

Russia, Five Years On. *Radio 3, 9.25pm.*

It's not just the rebuffs the Russian Army suffered in Chechenya that are symptomatic of its sick state. What emerges from this discussion between Geoffrey Hosking and Colonel Roy Giles of the Defence Research Agency is that it will take something like a miracle to cure it. We hear about the 6,000-odd deaths a year caused by the brutal bullying of National Service conscripts by their seniors. We hear, too, about officers using the rank and file to build them luxury holiday homes paid for by the looting of funds intended for Chechen reconstruction. Small wonder that demoralisation has joined the long list of diseases that are weakening the Russian Army. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Kevin Greening **12.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **7.00** Evening Session with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq **9.00** Soundbite. Includes an interview with John Cale of Velvet Underground and Mark Morriss from the Bluetones chooses the song that changed his life **10.00** Stuart Maconie **12.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **4.00am** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy, includes **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** My Mammy and Me **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **10.00** Speak to me Pretty **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Sue McGarry **3.00** Steve Madden

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **8.35** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra, with Valerie Sanderson **7.35** Head to Head. Professor Geoffrey Beattie interviews a leading sports personality **8.05** Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet looks behind the sporting headlines **9.05** SportsAmerica, with Alton Byrd **9.35** Sportshop. Adrian Goldberg looks at the big-money sports business **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours — Early Call, with Vincent Hanna **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Philip Hodson **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Network UK **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Composer of the Month **8.45** Health Matters **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Sports International **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian On Screen **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Assignment **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Network UK **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.30** Assignment **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Books **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Record Progress **11.30** Ed Stewart **12.30am** Good Books **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Stories by W. W. Jacobs **3.15** Sport **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight, with John Brunning **6.30** Sonata. Leclair (Flute Sonata in G Major) **7.00** Travel **8.00** Concert. Hummel (Trumpet Concerto), Gounod (Petite Symphonie); Nielsen (Flute Concerto); Busoni (Concerto for Clarinet and Small Orchestra); Stravinsky (Symphony of Wind Instruments); Glière (Horn Concerto) **10.00** Nick Bailey **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Schubert (Violin Sonata No 2 in A, D385); Lotti (La Vita Caduca); Bridge (Suite for String Orchestra); J. C. F. Bach (Sonata in F for two violins and Continuo)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young. Includes Strauss (Prelude Capriccio); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 6 in B minor)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Howells (King's Herald); Korngold (Symphonic Serenade for String Orchestra); Babell (Recorder Concerto in C); Poulenc (Two Marches and an Intermezzo); Mompou (Three Variations on a Theme of Chopin); Debussy (Rhapsody); Martinu (Serenade No 4)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi with David Fallows. Orfeo, Act 4. New London Consort, conductor Philip Pickett. Sonata sopra Sancta Maria; Magnificat (1610 Vespers)
1.00pm Opera Matinée: Giustino. The British broadcast premiere of Vivaldi's 18th opera, recorded last year at the Royal College of Music in London. With Mhairi Lawson, soprano, William Purefoy, countertenor, Sally Bruce-Payne, contralto, Nicki Kennedy, soprano and directors Adrian Chandler and Giulia Nuti
5.00 Music Machine Tommy Pearson and conductor Sian Edwards try to find out what was the first opera
5.15 In Tune, with Nicola Heywood Thomas. Includes Shostakovich (Festive Overture); Monteverdi (Lamento d'Arianna); Prokofiev (Romeo and Juliet, excerpts); Mozart (String Quartet in E flat, K614)
7.30 London Mozart Players. A concert given in 1995 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Includes Ravel (Le Tombeau de Couperin); Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A, K622); Richard Strauss (Romanze); Takemitsu (Requiem for strings); Haydn (Symphony No 4 in E minor) (r)
9.25 Russia Five Years On. See Choice
10.00 Music Restored. George Pratt introduces a concert given by the Yorkshire Baroque Soloists, director Peter Seymour. Includes Muffat (Florilegium Secundum No 1 in D minor); Charpentier (Pour le Sacre d'un Evesque); Muffat (Florilegium Secundum No 3 in A minor)
10.45 Night Waves. Including a new monthly series, New York Stories. Bill Buford, literary editor of the *New Yorker* and former editor of *Granta*, presents a personal view of American culture. Plus Humphrey Carpenter talks to *Granta* editor Ian Jack about a vision of contemporary Britain emerging in new writing
11.30 Composer of the Week: Bernstein (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Dave Gelly introduces further excerpts from the Stan Tracey 70th birthday concert
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes 1.00 *Evening Song*

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** *Prayer for the Day* **6.30** Today **8.43** Skip All That
9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts (r)
9.30 The University. See Choice
10.00 Death on the Nile (FM). Agatha Christie's classic mystery. Poirot senses the atmosphere of evil around him. With John Moffat and Elaine Pyke (2/5)
10.00 Daily Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 From our Own Correspondent
12.00 News; You and Yours, With Clare Catford
12.25pm Wordly Wise. Panel game exploring words and language with chairman, Peter Hobday and guests Joe Melia, Loralei King, Annabel Giles and Richard Vranch **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping
2.00 News; Blood Sugar, by Lee Hall. Jill is 14-years-old, overweight and obsessed with food. With Sharon Perry and Charlie Hardwick Fox
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan and guests
4.00 News; 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen sees Martin McDonagh's new play *The Cripple of Inishmaan* at the National Theatre and reviews the new film from the director of *Cinema Paradiso*
4.45 Short Story: Speechless, by Rachel Billington. Read by John Hartley
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Skivers. A new comedy series with Nick Golson and Tim de Jongh. Features guest stars Patrick Allen and Michael Fish
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Slaves to Nature. Julien Pettifer explores the natural history of our origins with anthropologist Rob Foley and discovers that through most of our past we shared the planet with other species of human (2/3)
8.00 Liberal Britain on Trial: The Welfare State. A mock trial challenging the assumptions that Britain has held from the 1960s through to the final years of this century, chaired by Nick Clarke. For the prosecution, Digby Anderson, and for the defence, Bea Campbell (2/3)
8.45 The Red Hills of Home. A new series about residents of Zimbabwe. A white tobacco farmer tells his story (1/6)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar?
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scarlet and Black, by Stendhal. Read by Greg Wise (9/10)
11.00 Bitter Medicine, with Sharon Gless. V. I. borrows some files from the Monkfish charity. With Eleanor Bron (4/6)
11.30 The Art of Travel
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: A Spell of Winter, by Helen Dunmore (2/8)
12.48 Shipping 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. *FM* 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الأصل

Gold standard, but for the mucky language

Never insult a bin man. I mean it. The return of **Common as Muck** (BBC1) reminds us of an important truth about the now-familiar Ken and Nev and the rest. To whit: big, thick, self-destructive northerners they may be. But if you cut them, do they not bleed all over the shop?

After a highly impressive first series about the macho-but-emotional men on the bins, writer William Ivory must have faced precisely the same problem as Kay Mellor with ITV's *Band of Gold*. When you've damaged and bashed your characters in every conceivable respect (death, pain, loss, despair) how can you expect them to turn up cheerfully for more? Yet the second series of *Band of Gold* turned out magnificently, and things look promising here, too. From the moment the retiring Nev (Edward Woodward) affectingly collected his carriage clock, but insisted on "No foos" (fuss), and limped out whispering "magic", one was confident that one's heartstrings would not only be tugged, but also looped, crossed and threaded, like a cat's cradle.

Last night's first episode mainly concerned the youthful Jonno, (Stephen Lord), suffering under the strain of adult responsibility and predictably lashing out at his only friends. His wife Marie is pregnant and he loves her, but she insults his manhood so he slaps her. No, Jonno, no! He also deliberately insults old Nev (no!), who trembles with righteous indignation and throws him into the street. A flirt with crime ends tragically (no!) with his mate Sean run over and killed. Not surprisingly, Jonno sits on the stairs at the end of his perfect day and weeps noisily. He has only himself to blame, of course — which makes it even better.

Neil Dudgeon's charismatic Ken has yet to get into his stride, but I'm sure he's worth waiting for. Meanwhile the only jarring note is the stylised cursing code, which uses "bastard" as an adjective ("My bastard ears are bleeding") and puts "bollocks" into every sentence, sometimes to mean "What nonsense!" and sometimes in the exciting reflexive form "We're bollocksed!" Presumably, "bastard" and "bollocks" signal that they are substitutes for stronger words — but I don't know, it grates. Somehow telly must come up with the equivalent of the row of asterisks, and fast.

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

Anyway, it's pleasant to think that Bruce Gyngell's clean-up-TV initiative last night may well have elegantly backfired, with ITV viewers in his Yorkshire/C3NE region deprived of **Hollywood Lovers**, so turning over to *Common as Muck* and learning to use "bollocks" in inventive ways.

One just keeps praying the Hollywood genre will run out, but there seems no chance of it. After *Hollywood Men, Women, Pets, Kids* and *Lovers* have been exhausted, the production company can start focusing directly on *Hollywood Body Parts*, and stop pretending they're really interested in anything else. Anybody who has ever watched one of these morally alarming films will have experienced the ghastly moment of ice-skid nausea when suddenly it's "Welcome to the world of body parts!" and a surgeon with a big screwdriver is interfering with somebody's genitalia.

The only artistic defence for last night's labia majora operation — and it was, as Mr Gyngell suspected, disgusting — was that at least it shocked everybody concerned. All those loud-mouthed women with chiselled faces who boasted their unshockability under palm trees were visibly horrified, and I am quite sure would have raised their eyebrows if their faces hadn't been stapled into that position already.

"Female genitalia enhancement?" they gasped, taking it in. Perhaps the gory stuff was worth it, just to see the looks on their faces as the next question started formulating in their minds. Because alas, after the horror comes wonder; after wonder, acceptance. And after acceptance comes the big question: "How much?"

What makes the Hollywood scene easy meat for the film-makers is the fact that everyone is permanently "on". Paradoxically, this means that when street scenes are filmed — lonely guy tries to pick up girls with "Hey, what time do you get off?" — everybody knows not to look at the camera, to pretend it's just not there.

The return of the popular Padstow chef Rick Stein, in the new **Rick Stein's Fruits of the Sea** (BBC2) showed the opposite tendency, and it was a bit disturbing. Stein not only acknowledged the camera; he referred to the cameraman's opinions, and engaged the lens in a boozy, late-night stream-of-consciousness about simple food. In short, he seemed to be experimenting with dangerous levels of self-consciousness, talking directly to the viewer at home with an earnestness usually reserved for American evangelical preachers when they are angling for dosh.

"Why not do another series?" Stein asked us, challengingly, at the beginning, shuffling the contents of a pan on a flame while his sous-chefs bustled beyond. Flinging peppered fish on a griddle, he rehearsed the arguments for venturing into a second series, offering us the chance to agree with him that Chalky (the dog) deserved his second stab at fame, and that a natural talent for communication should not be stifled by silly prejudices about artistic perfection.

It was probably the strangest — but most honest — thing a telly chef has ever done. Meanwhile the cooking was fast and hot as usual, and for those fans who enjoyed the famous mandolin-chopping incident in the first series (which went "Aar!" and involved hopping), Stein was last night burnt by a spatter of hot fat in a scene that was equally entertaining.

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (87354)
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (62712)
9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (4074557)
9.20 ALL OVER THE SHOP (8037731)
9.45 KILROY (1234083)
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (97052)
11.00 NEWS (T) and weather (6537335)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (9481052)
11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (6314002)
12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (7125354)
12.05pm INCOGNITO (6363538)
12.30 CALL MY BLUFF (4099793)
12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (27504460)
1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (72199)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (44184354)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (74086151)
2.05 QUINCY (8042644)
2.50 MORE SECRET GARDENS The gardens of Helmingham Hall, Stowmarket, Suffolk (7376460)
3.00 PUT IT TO THE TEST (5606)
3.30 PLAYDAYS (3094712) **3.50** Casper Classics (2709731) **3.55** Wham! Bam! Strawberry Jam! (7344642) **4.10** Free Willy (1887828) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (7093625) **5.00** Newsround (T) (2432719) **5.10** The Biz (T) (1098606)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (T) (643538)
6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (489)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (441)
7.00 WATCHDOG Jonathan Maitland presents an exposé of showbusiness scams and cons (1/2) (T) (1165)
7.30 EASTENDERS Alan demands the truth from Frankie (T) (625)
8.00 INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS: The Swallow's Odyssey The migration from England to South Africa of a five-month-old swallow (T) (6335)
8.30 NEXT OF KIN Georgie lays down some groundrules when she and her grandmother go on a shopping trip (T) (8176)
9.00 NEWS (T) and weather (7422)
9.30 THE X FILES: War of the Coprophages Mulder discovers a small town infested with killer cockroaches (T) (893731)
10.15 THE FRANK SKINNER SHOW Tonight's guests include a heavy metal legend and the winner of the world's biggest lottery (T) (325199)
10.45 **NIGHTMARE: The Birth of Horror** Christopher Frayling goes in search of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary bloodthirsty hound (T) (722064)
11.35 FILM: Psycho III (1986) starring and directed by Anthony Perkins. A suicidal young novice flees from her convent after unwittingly causing the death of a fellow nun, and seeks refuge at the sinister Bates Motel (901489)
1.05am FILM: The Hound of the Baskervilles (1939) With Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes. The last member of the aristocratic Baskervilles believes his family is being persecuted by a monstrous spectral hound. Directed by Sidney Lanfield (3984403)
2.25 WEATHER (1965749)

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BBC2

7.15am SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (6331996) **7.30** Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (2870373) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (2674828) **8.20** Wishing (3206170) **8.35** Lassie (3714083)
9.00 DAYTIME ON TWO: THE SCIENCE COLLECTION (8022809) **9.25** Into Work (9683335) **9.40** Megamaths (2403489) **10.00** Playdays (40002) **10.30** Storytime (8101441) **10.45** The Experimenter (5873731) **11.05** Space Ark (6558828) **11.15** Healthe 3: Sex Education (5268199) **11.35** Landmarks: The River Severn. New series (3626070) **11.55** Techno (6392880) **12.15pm** Quinze Minutes (2026422) **12.30 Working Lunch** (23248) **1.00** Lifeschool (75976035) **1.25** Isabel (80492002) **1.45** Numbertime (44194731) **2.00** Wishing (86622170) **2.10** The Fugitive (b/w) (r) (T) (9523118) **3.00** News (6515441)
3.05 DARTS: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (11330267)
6.00 STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE Starring Avery Brooks (T) (404373)
6.45 QUANTUM LEAP (r) (T) (603977)
7.30 FIRST SIGHT: Family Values Sushma Puri examines the law which allows an adopted child to look for his or her mother, but gives no legal rights to the mother to contact her child (267) **WALES:** Disaster **EAST:** Look East **MIDLANDS:** Midlands Today **NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST:** Look North **SOUTH:** South Today **SOUTH WEST:** Spotlight **WEST:** News West
8.00 **DISASTER** This new series looks at great disasters of our time and how they might have been avoided. Tonight's programme examines the Piper Alpha oilrig disaster of 1987 (T) (4977) **WALES:** Wonder Women
8.30 TOP GEAR A review of the 1,100-mile Network Q RAC Rally (T) (6712)

John Lithgow as Dick (9.00pm)

9.00 THIRD ROCK FROM THE SUN Dr Albright bends the truth in order to persuade Dick to attend a meeting, but her good intentions backfire (T) (5064)
9.30 **A WORD IN THE RIGHT EAR** The journalist Michael Cockerell reports on the secret world of the political lobbyists (516170)
10.20 ANOTHER FOOT IN THE PAST (784606)
10.30 NEWSNIGHT with Jeremy Paxman (T) (457248)
11.25 DARTS: WORLD PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (946977)
12.15am SKIING FORECAST (7966749)
12.20-2.00 FILM: The Silence (1963, b/w) Ingmar Bergman's drama about two sisters whose stay at an hotel is disrupted by intense emotional undercurrents. Starring Ingrid Thulin and Gunnel Lindblom. In Swedish with English subtitles (552328)

CHOICE

Disaster: Spiral to Disaster
BBC2, 8.00pm (Wales, 7.30pm; not Scotland)

This series may be criticised as a voyeuristic wallow in tragedy, though the motives behind it are more sober and responsible. A product of BBC Education, it sets out to explore the reasons behind recent disasters and to see how they might have been avoided. The aim is instruction, rather than entertainment, though that is no guarantee that some viewers will not get a vicarious thrill. The opening programme is about the Piper Alpha oilrig explosion in July 1988 in which 176 men died. A blow-by-blow reconstruction uncovers a horrifying chain of human error, from inadequate design to failures in procedure, poor management and a desire to put commercial interests before safety. It is not reassuring to learn that there are still ten gas escapes each year as big as the one that caused the Piper Alpha inferno.

Dispatches
Channel 4, 9.00pm

A worrying report on the National Health Service claims a connection between the increasing use of temporary nurses and life-threatening mistakes on the wards. The programme highlights three cases of patients who died while in the care of casual staff, without establishing that this was the main factor in the death. But there is plenty of other evidence that the employment of temporary nurses means at best a lack of continuity and at worst puts patients at risk. The report calculates that the number of temporary staff has risen by two thirds since the trust system started in 1991 and sees it as a way of saving money. None of the hospitals concerned agreed to be interviewed, while the comment from the Department of Health seems extraordinarily dismissive.

A Word in the Right Ear
BBC2, 9.30pm

Michael Cockerell's entertaining report on political lobbying puts a surprisingly positive gloss on an activity that has figured so prominently in accusations of sleaze. Much of the film is an illustration of the maxim that "lobbying enhances the democratic process". The quotation comes from Sir Tim Bell. As a lobbyist supreme he might be expected to say that. But he could be speaking the truth. Judge for yourselves as the film charts the unlikely alliance between Sir Tim and the postal workers' trade union which successfully lobbied against government plans to privatise the Post Office. Here, it can be argued, was public opinion against the powerful state machine, and emerging triumphant. But Michael Heseltine, the target of the campaign, no doubt saw it differently.

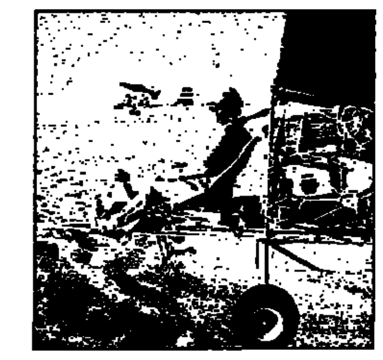
Nightmare — The Birth of Horror
BBC1, 10.45pm

Christopher Frayling rounds off his series with Conan Doyle and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Whether it belongs to the horror genre in the same sense as Frankenstein and Dracula is debatable, as is Frayling's assertion that it is the finest detective story ever written. Such quibbles apart, this is another highly entertaining film. Frayling may be a professor but he is also a showman, prepared to do anything and go anywhere to make his story more dramatic. He visits the Reichenbach Falls, plays golf and rides a horse across Dartmoor. You half expect him to put on a deerstalker and play Sherlock Holmes, but this task is mainly reserved for the celluloid ghost of Basil Rathbone. As for *The Hound*, Frayling speculates on the origins of the tale and the suspicion that parts of it were written by another hand.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (1997557)
9.25 WIN, LOSE OR DRAW (6312422)
9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (9222347)
10.00 THE TIME, THE PLACE (44523)
10.30 THIS MORNING (53475731)
12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (7121538)
12.30 NEWS (T) and weather (4024489)
12.55 SHORTLAND STREET (4092580) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (80470880) **1.50** Afternoon Live (74091053) **2.20** Vanessa (T) (23847793) **2.50** Afternoon Live (9569538)
3.20 NEWS (6522731)
3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (6521002)
3.30 THE RIDDLERS (2299533) **3.40** Wizadora (1645354) **3.50** Winnie the Pooh **4.15** Mike and Angelo. New series (1871267) **4.40** Sticky New series (5354536)
5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (8257422)
5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (319644)
6.00 HOME AND AWAY (r) (T) (327441)
6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (928536)
7.00 EMMERDALE Frank decides enough is enough (T) (5083)



In search of elephants (7.30pm)

7.30 SURVIVAL: ELEPHANTS OF THE DUNES Wildlife photographers Des and Jen Bartlett reveal the extraordinary lifestyle of the elephants which inhabit Africa's Namib Desert (T) (793)
8.00 THE BILL A young boy is found electrocuted in his neighbour's flat and all the evidence points to murder (T) (4731)
8.30 MICHAEL BARRYMORE'S STRIKE IT RICH (T) (6098)
9.00 FILM: Tightrope (1984) Clint Eastwood stars as a seedy New Orleans detective investigating a series of brutal sex murders — and gains an unwelcome insight into his own darker impulses. Also starring Genevieve Bujold, Dan Hedaya and Alison Eastwood. Directed by Richard Tuggle. Continued after the news (8809)
10.00 NEWS (T) and weather (24489)
10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (372248)
10.40 FILM: Tightrope Concludes (8804809)
11.45 HUNTER Hunter and McCall try to restore Hunter's former partner's tarnished reputation (r) (605118)
12.40am IN BED WITH MEDINNER (7973039)
1.10 FUNNY BUSINESS (2535300)
1.40 CYBER CAFE (2936768)
2.10 LATE AND LOUD (r) (5215565)
3.10 ITV SPORT CLASSICS (32980697)
3.40 THE GOOD SEX GUIDE LATE (r) (3943652)
4.30 THE TIME, THE PLACE (r) (88774)
5.00 THE NEW MR AND MRS SHOW (68478)
5.30 NEWS (24403)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE (4092880)
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (8257422)
6.25 CENTRAL NEWS (335460)
11.45 BAGDAD CAFE (308422)
12.15am FUNNY BUSINESS (31381)
12.45 ED'S NIGHT PARTY (30652)
1.15 CLUB NATION (930377)
2.15 SHIFT (5224213)
3.10 PLANET ROCK PROFILES (62362229)
3.35 STAND UP (83552039)
4.05 LATE AND LOUD (1495519)
5.00 CENTRAL JOBFINDER '97 (5847294)
5.20 ASIAN EYE (5528836)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 EMMERDALE (4092880)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8257422)
6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (28793)
11.45-12.40am THE MAKING OF EVITA (605118)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
1.00pm SHORTLAND STREET (79709719)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8257422)
6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (557)
6.30-7.00 GETAWAYS (809)
11.45 TERRORS OF THE DEEP (605118)
5.00am FREESCREEN (68478)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 CROSSWITS (4092880)
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (8257422)
6.25 ANGLIA NEWS (335460)
6.55-7.00 WHAT'S ON (475847)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am SESAME STREET (50064)
7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (55422)
9.00 HANGIN' WITH MR COOPER (97098)
9.30 YSGOLION (312538)
12.00 AUSTRALIA WILD (14002)
12.30pm HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (41644)
1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN (65809)
1.30 Film: PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (1925). A restored version of the original, starring Lon Chaney and Mary Philbin Directed by Rupert Julian (65466581)
3.15 RICKI LAKE (3440441)
4.00 THE FIGHT FOR HEARTS AND MINDS (422)
4.30 GREAT LITTLE TRAINS. West Country steam trains (606)
5.00 5 PUMP (3489)
5.30 COUNTDOWN (286)
6.00 NEWYDDION (319557)
6.05 HENO (345847)
6.35 GAIR AM AUR (680557)
7.00 POBOL Y CWM (309278)
7.25 PENBLWYDD HAPUS (630165)
8.00 MWY O JOCARS (2373)
8.30 NEWYDDION (1880)
9.00 Y PALMANT AUR (9151)
10.00 A WOMAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS (309793)
11.45 DISPATCHES (854557)
12.30am-2.15 Film: SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHERIFF (770565)
3.40 YSGOLION (789381)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am SESAME STREET (50064)
7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (55422)
9.00 HANGIN' WITH MR COOPER (r) (97098)
9.30 SCHOOLS (312538)
12.00 AUSTRALIA WILD (14002)
12.30pm HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (r) (41644)
1.00 CRAWSHAW'S SKETCHING AND DRAWING (r) (65809)
1.30 AN ARTIST LOOKS AT CHURCHES (44177064)
1.40 FILM: Serenade (1956) Mario Lanza is a vineyard worker with a wonderful voice, discovered by socialite Joan Fontaine Directed by Anthony Mann (43247809)
4.00 FRANCES BISSELL'S WEST COUNTRY KITCHEN (4/6) Potato and parsley soup, steak in cider sauce (422)
4.30 COUNTDOWN (T) (606)
5.00 RICKI LAKE (T) (9580286)
5.45 FOOD FILE (184460)
6.00 NEW GAMESMASTER (T) (199)
6.30 HOLLYOAKS (T) (151)
7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (T) (422199)
7.50 SAVE A LIFE (578793)
8.00 SICK WOMEN, SMART DOCTORS Television critics Jaci Stephen and John Lyttle chart the history of television medical drama from *Emergency — Ward 10* to *Casualty* (r) (T) (2373)
8.30 TV DINNERS A Punjabi dinner and a traditional high tea (T) (1880)
9.00 CHOICE **DISPATCHES** Are hospitals which use temporary nurses putting lives at risk? (T)(862335)
9.45 THE LONG JOHNS New series with John Bird and John Fortune (T) (225118)

Eccleston, Fox and McGregor (10pm)

10.00 FILM: Shallow Grave (1994) Danny Boyle's multi-award-winning debut starring Ewan McGregor, Chris Eccleston and Kerry Fox. Three friends are looking for a fourth flatmate, and think they have found the ideal person until he dies leaving a suitcase full of cash. They become embroiled in a black comedy of death, dismemberment and dementia (T) (574170)
11.40 THE MAKING OF A DOCTOR Following a group of Harvard medical students as they train to become hospital doctors (r) (787977)
1.20am ROYAL TREATMENT A report into patient deaths at one of Britain's most highly regarded psychiatric hospitals, the Garnavel Royal in Glasgow (r) (T) (4180403)
2.20 THE CASSEL An examination of the unique methods used to treat patients at the Cassel psychiatric hospital near London (r) (2215861)
3.40 SCHOOLS (789381)
5.35-6.00 BACKDATE (r) (8463395)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Mix (711170) **9.00** Designing Women (59002) **9.30** Designing Women (69064) **10.00** Another World (12731) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (34557) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (82915) **1.00pm** Geraldo (88335) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (65335) **3.00** Jenny Jones (74149) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (87996) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (7460) **6.00** Real TV (2462) **6.30** Married — with Children (4002) **7.00** The Simpsons (5489) **7.30** MASH (2606) **8.00** Just Kidding (1808) **8.30** The Nanny (3644) **9.00** Seinfeld (76880) **9.30** Mad About You (83644) **10.00** Chicago Hope (20199) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (13460) **12.00** LAPD (69590) **12.30am** The Lucy Show (57213) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (13039)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (6337847) **8.00** Sliders (8313267) **9.00** Highlander (6326731) **10.00** Tek War (6336118) **11.00** Late Show (7400354) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9344871)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Magnificent Showman (1964) (82129480) **8.20 Flight of the Doves** (1971) (82715151) **10.10 The Blue Bird** (1976) (51472002) **12.00 Jules Verne's 800 Leagues Down the Amazon** (1994) (78538) **2.00pm Cool Runnings** (1993) (65821) **4.00 Scout's Honor** (1980) (9064) **6.00 Josh and SAM** (1993) (67769248) **7.40** US Top 10 (230996) **8.00 Cool Runnings** (1993) (16644) **9.30 The Movie Show** (78712) **10.00 First Knight** (1995) (52009118) **12.20am Once Were Warriors** (1994) (701300) **2.05 Natural Causes** (1994) (7605045) **3.30 The Spikes Gang** (1974) (94478)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am George White's 1935 Scandals (1935) (32183) **7.30 Charles Dickens' Ghost Stories: From the Pickwick Papers** (1987) (82680) **8.30 Freddie as FR07** (1992) (42644) **10.00 The Command** (1954) (72538) **12.00 Because Mommy Works** (1995) (60880) **2.00pm The Errand Boy** (1961) (65903) **4.00 Freddie as FR07** (1992) (7606) **6.00 Behind the Waterfall** (1995) (22557) **8.00 Rob Roy** (1995) (27347462) **10.10 When a Man Loves a Woman** (1994) (52096644) **12.30am Red Shoe Diaries III: Another Woman's Lipstick** (1993) (889861) **2.05 Prototype** (1981) (962720) **3.45 Fast Company** (1995) (85126)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Experiment Perilous (1944) (6837462) **6.00 The Last American Hero** (1973) (9082835) **8.00 Sleeping Dogs** (1977) (9087880) **10.00 The Serpent and the Rainbow** (1987) (9355286) **11.45 The King of Marvin Gardens** (1972) (7122083) **1.30am The Devil Rides Out** (1968) (6494855) **3.10-5.05 The Corsican Brothers** (1941) (8210519)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Mouse Tracks (3777538) **6.25** Quack Attack (3789373) **6.50** Bonkers (8236441) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (9691731) **7.40** Aladdin (4981847) **8.05** Goof Troop (8768712) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (5251880) **8.40** The Care Bears (6309248) **9.10** Groundling Marsh (4386015) **9.40** Big Garage (8522373) **9.55** Lamb Chop (6623084) **10.25** Muppet Babies (4477644) **10.55** Adventures in Wonderland (5104335) **11.25** Mouse Tracks (6233460) **11.55** Under the Umbrella Tree (4817712) **12.25pm** Fraggle Rock (4839354) **12.55** Disney Presents (4808016) **1.45** Aladdin (92216489) **2.10** The Little Mermaid (85870118) **2.35** Bonkers (8215426) **3.00** Quack Attack (7300064) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (9765793) **3.35** Goof Troop (4017170) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (3339354) **4.10** Goof Troop (1152064) **4.35** Bonkers (3647034) **5.00** Aladdin (3845606) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (1618625) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (544626) **6.00** Bone Chillers (18972) **7.00** Dave's World (7967) **7.30 FILM: Red Hot** (20793) **9.00** Tarzan (54606) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (13422)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (59286) **7.30** World Wrestling Federation (39712) **8.30** Racing News (48249) **9.00** Sports Centre (60626) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (48278) **10.00** Futbol Mundial (84080) **10.30** Grass Roots Rugby (59712) **11.00** Sports Classics (47441) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (40064) **12.30pm** Futbol Mundial (77606) **1.00** Darts (416928) **3.30** Rebel Sports (9712) **4.00** World Windsurfing Tour (8847) **4.30** World of Speed and Beauty (7731) **4.59** Sports Centre (9826335) **5.00** World Wrestling Federation (9609) **6.00** Sports Centre (5996) **6.30** Netbusters (82422) **7.30** Ice Hockey (123606) **10.00** Sports Centre (41793) **10.30** Tight Lines (21335) **11.30** Sports Unlimited (23606) **12.30am** Sports Centre (95497) **1.00** Ice Hockey (506768) **3.30** Sports Centre (35756)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Fishing: Tight Lines (3640921) **9.00** Spanish Football (6995098) **11.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (4046606) **12.30am-1.00** Hall of Fame (1713045)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Beach Volleyball (67342335) **1.00pm** Coca-Cola Cup Football (56102002) **3.00** Sports Classics (43210441) **4.00** Futbol Mundial (81432151) **4.30** Grass Roots Rugby (81438335) **5.00** Sailing (75778644) **5.30** PGA Tour (81452915) **6.00** Beach Volleyball (67371847) **7.00** Sports Centre (75758880) **7.30** Football League Review (34965815) **9.00** US Golf: Mercedes Championship (20888151) **11.00-11.30** World of Sailing (43207977)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally Raid (63489) **8.00** Ski-Jumping (93880) **9.00** Biathlon — Live (14625) **11.00** Rally Raid (29996) **11.30** Sailing (20625) **12.00** Biathlon — Live (35793) **1.30pm** Luge (94373) **2.00** Football (42335) **4.00** Quadriathlon (10248) **5.00** Biathlon (19826) **6.30** Skiing — Live (17118) **7.30** Football — Live (47847) **9.30** Rally Raid (82538) **10.00** Boxing (46151) **11.00** Mountain Bike (32409) **11.30** Triathlon (63002) **12.00-12.30am** Rally Raid (29942)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (8618460) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (34702880) **6.45** Our Backyard (26622644) **7.00** Alphabet Zoo (5407880) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (8401267) **7.30** The Return of the Antelope (2904052) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (1535354) **8.30** Families (1534625) **9.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (8694880) **10.00** Second Thoughts (4381996) **10.30** Two's Company (1554488) **11.00** The Life and Times of Henry Pratt (8609850) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (1538441)

Richard Gere as Lancelot in *First Knight* (Sky Movies, 10.00pm)

12.30pm Families (9554712) **1.00** Albion Market (2808408) **1.30** Edge of Britain (9553083) **2.00** After the War (4362625) **3.00** Chessgame (9643828) **4.00** The Doctor Series: In Charge 1 (2142996) **4.30** Second Thoughts (2131880) **5.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (3947793) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (2152373) **6.30** Families (2143625) **7.00 7.30** Two's Company (2149609) **8.00** Chessgame (6851267) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (4069977) **9.35** The Good Life Guide (3528426) **10.00-11.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (6874118) **From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors**

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features and Your Stars presented by Russell Grant
From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith
From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Natural Health
From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden. Includes The Good Life Style Guide

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Bonnie and Clyde (6974538) **5.00** Mummies (1549083) **6.00** The Last Days of World War Two: Death of the Reich (1504731) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Alexandra Graham Bell (5640101)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday to Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite and from **8am-4am** every day on cable
1.00am The Twilight Zone (6851942) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (9446381) **2.00** New Alfred Hitchcock (3752294) **2.30** Rod Serling's Night Gallery (3844229) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (7330861)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (3947489) **9.30** Grow Your Own (7768557) **10.00** Go Fishing (9790267) **10.30** Our House (3936373) **11.00** The Painted House (4087354) **11.30** This Old House (4088083) **12.00** Sweet Things (3927625) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (3168593) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8403606) **1.30** Home Again (4518034) **2.00** *Hometime* (8210151) **2.30** Furniture on the Mend (8868204) **3.00** Two's Country (8239286) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1379719)
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (6129015) **4.30** Crocodile Hunters (4224480) **5.00** Connections 2 by James Burke (8234731) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (8224660) **6.00** Wild Things: Giants of Ningaloo (8213642) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (8221267) **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (9379539) **8.00** The Professionals (8380267) **9.00** Top Marques 2 **9.30** Disaster (9768737) **10.00** Justice Files (8303118) **11.00** Classic Wheels (8413083) **12.00** Wings of the Luftwaffe (2483584) **1.00am** Driving Passions (2197584) **1.30-2.00** High Five (2532294)

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (7937828) **7.35** Neighbours (93758 00 Crossroads (7073064) **8.25** EastEnders (8121070) **9.00** The Bill (3949847) **9.30** One by O112 00 Crossroads (3929083) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1368511) **1.00** EastEnders (6704557) **1.35** Terry and June (5841489) **2.15** Shelley (4380606) **2.50** 'Allo 'Allo (8251151) **3.30** The Bill (8579737) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (4070064) **5.00** EastEnders (2332267) **5.35** Crossroads (3466267) **6.00** Man About the House *(7674101)* **6.30** *Porridge (7033118)* **7.05** Every Second Counts (4910996) **7.50** Spring and Autumn (1602996) Victoria Wood as Seen on TV (9197538) **9.00** The Bill (6457557) **9.35 FILM: Carry on Columbus** (4197880) **11.20** Ripping Yarns (1927880) **12.00 FILM: For the Love of Ada** (1576768) **1.35am** Ripping Yarns (5497565) **2.15** Shopping at Night (4531381)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (5896286) **6.45** Pugwall (248170) **7.15** Saved by the Bell (246083) **7.45** California Dreams (245354) **8.15** Sweet Valley High (408996) **8.45** Art Attack (1404070) **9.00** Tiny TCC (1595539) **9.20** Brum (1690183) **9.40** Johnson and Friends (9816002) **9.50** Towser (9812286) **10.00** Robin and Rosie of Cockleshell Bay (4309441) **10.15** King Rollo (1961267) **10.20** Philbert the Frog (1951880) **10.25** Christopher Crocodile (4395248) **10.40** Charlie Chalk (3579606) **11.00** Dinobabies (70644) **11.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (71373) **12.00** Barney (19118) **12.30pm** Where's Wally? (39480) **1.00** Casper and Friends (53625) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (36525688) **1.45** Teddy Trucks (57282354) **1.55** Johnson and Friends (75339373) **2.15** Babaloos (62157809) **2.20** Bump (62161002) **2.30** Christopher Crocodile (3991248) **2.40** Mr Benn (7805644) **3.00** Pugwall (4170) **3.30** Saved by the Bell (2828) **4.00** California Dreams (1335) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (1737)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (64793) **6.30** Biker Mice (19170) **7.00** Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (57828) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (36335) **8.00** Mighty Max (78847) **8.30** Hey Arnold! (77118) **9.00** Rugrats (51170) **9.30** Rugrats (97460) **10.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (88842) **10.30** Doug (57354) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (25170) **11.30** The Adventures of Pete and Pete (33199) **12.00** The Secret World of Alex Mack (48606) **12.30pm** Ren and Stimpy (75248) **1.00** The Ferals (56199) **1.30** Space Cases (98737) **2.00** Clarissa (7489) **2.30** Doug (2809) **3.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (6996) **3.30** Stickin' Around (7364) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (6489) **4.30** Rugrats (5373) **5.00** Sister Sister (1441) **5.30** Sister Sister (6625) **6.00** Moesha (3538) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (7118)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Family Ties (8977) **7.30** Benson (6002) **8.00** Entertainment UK (7625) **8.30** Hooperman (9460) **9.00** Bakersfield PD (12606) **9.30** Taxi (88712) **10.00** Wings (49335) **10.30** London Underground (58083) **11.00** Manmade News (17151) **11.30** Frontline (40646) **12.00** Saturday Night Live (37590) **1.00am** Hooperman (59855) **1.30** Bakersfield PD (61132) **2.00** Entertainment UK (36949) **2.30** Manmade News (13126) **3.00** Taxi (42519) **3.30-4.00** Wings (35738)

BRAVO

12.00 The *Time Tunnel (7537484)* **1.00pm** Remington Steele (8013444) **2.00** Department S (9788422) **3.00** Space 1999 (4086625) **4.00 FILM: Valley of the Dolls** (8237829) **6.00** Thunderbirds (4613689) **7.00** The Champions (8391373) **8.00** Alien Nation (8377793) **9.00** The Persuaders (8397557) **10.00-12.00 FILM: Peeping Tom** (4085996)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (6330183) **6.50** Trivial Pursuit (16971118) **7.10** Turnabout (4953170) **7.40** The Young and the Restless (5688996) **8.30** Masterchef (9066977) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (9136002) **9.10** Gabrielle (4380847) **10.05** Jerry Springer Uncut (3973557) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (2363267) **11.55** Brookside (8896083) **12.25pm** Call the Doctor (19729793) **12.55** Tempest (5201809) **1.45** Gordon Elliott (6085996) **2.30** The Agony Experience (6368712) **3.00** Live at Three (69620712) **4.05** Jerry Springer (4710809) **5.05** Lingo (76758083) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (6379828) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (8822335) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (6431731) **7.05** Brookside (7522083) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (7314593) **8.05** Rolonda (5178977) **9.00 FILM: Mirrors** (9064793) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files II (9818064)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (6915) **5.30** Through the Keyhole (1199) **6.00** All Clued Up (1712) **6.30** Catchphrase (2064) **7.00** The Pyramid Game (6151) **7.30** Hart to Hart (59002) **8.30** Only When I Laugh (1606) **9.00** The Father Dowling Mysteries (87422) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (97809) **11.00** Rising Damp (62625) **11.30** Duty Free (36460) **12.00** Lou Grant (86836) **1.00am** Father Dowling (54331) **2.00** Hart to Hart (15671) **3.00** Lou Grant (27045) **4.00** All Together Now (56855) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (74132)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Lifestyle East **8.30** Business Update **9.00** Hai Thi Hil Hai **9.30** Your Zindagi **10.00** Sahil **11.00** Chakravyuh **11.30** Banegi Apni Baat **12.00** Dastaan **12.30** Nukkad **1.00 FILM: Asha Jyoti** **4.00** ZEE Top 10 **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** The Vikram aur Beetal **6.00** Yoodle Ae Oo **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Ten Bhi Chup Man Bhi Chup **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News and Euronews **8.30** Andaz **9.00** Jaal **9.30** Hasratain **10.00** Commander **10.30** Song Yatra **11.00** Zee Horror Show **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm Around the World Under the Sea (1966) (75583267) **9.00 Telefon** (1977) (20886793) **11.00 Fever Pitch** (1985) (98159441) **12.40 Mr Skeffington** (1944) (49339774) **2.50-5.00 Around the World Under the Sea** (1966) (81272565)

CRICKET 38
England take
to nets
with dedication

SPORT

TENNIS 40
Henman volleys
his way to
fresh triumph

THURSDAY JANUARY 9 1997

MESSIANIC MANAGER WALKS OUT ON NEWCASTLE TO A DEAFENING SILENCE

Keegan abandons his dream team

By Rob Hughes
FOOTBALL CORRRESPONDENT

YESTERDAY two of the diminishing breed, the pioneering British adventurers, were brought down to earth almost simultaneously. Kevin Keegan, the Magpie, departed Newcastle United shortly after Richard Branson, the Virgin high-flyer, had his dream flight deflated. Two men of different worlds, both millionaires by their own opportunism, both popularists, and both throwbacks to the spirit of the past, are grounded, temporarily I feel sure.

Keegan's apparently sudden resignation at St James' Park came only with the plausible statement that he had resigned "in the best interests of all concerned . . . I feel I have taken the club as far as I can".

It would be too simple to read into this that Keegan, emotionally drained, himself shares the growing opinion, the panic, that his cavalier style of football cannot deliver a trophy to Tyneside, even after he has spent £60 million recruiting precious talents from around the world.

Keegan, himself, would never surrender that belief: he had been acquisitive, like a child in the toy shop, except that his toy shop was the global sphere of the international game. He was consumed with Newcastle, its potential and his commitment to attacking style; but he is no fool, and his legacy is a team that beat Manchester United 5-0 in October and thrashed Tottenham Hotspur 7-1 and beat Leeds United 3-0 in its last league games.

One feels that, perhaps liberated from the tension that could be seen growing on him,

Keegan's exit 1
Lynne Truss 5
Man on the edge 5
Photograph 5
Swain's task 40
The stress game 42

the players could now, indeed, be directed to the 1997 FA Carling Premiership title. The class is there, but the defence is negligent and negligible. Newcastle need, though one hates to say it, a touch of pragmatism, a guide who, more tactically aware than Keegan, can withstand the ripostes of opponents and the psychological cunning with which Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, so shamelessly tripped up Keegan this time last year when Newcastle's first championship in seven decades seemed almost a formality.

However, it would be naive to assume that business, very hard-nosed business, does not have a hand in Keegan's leaving. When, in February 1992, he was appointed, Newcastle Breweries and the bank, and the rest of the club directors, virtually held a shotgun to the head of Sir John Hall, the chairman, obliging him to sack Osvaldo Ardiles and appoint Keegan.

Their reasoning was survival. The club, they felt, had one foot in the second division grave. Keegan, they knew, had the charisma, the Pied Piper effect in the North East, to put 11,000 on the gate, to inspire belief in the club. "It was a business decision," Sir John later told me, "and I am a hard businessman."

So, Keegan was the catalyst to regeneration, though he may not have won a major trophy, and may have shown an imbalance towards exotic attacking players — Faustino Asprilla comes first to mind. Would the businessmen be so intolerably wrong if they gambled that a new manager, a Dalglish or even a Cruyff, could yet batten down the defensive hatches and bring home the championship?

If that scenario has credibility, make no mistake it is because Keegan was inestimably the right man at the right time five years ago. I recall, earlier than that, Jackie Milburn, a Newcastle United legend in his own lifetime, standing on the steps of St James' and lamenting: "The crowd and players seem poles apart. At one time they were a unit, and this club has no future unless we get that back."

Keegan did that. He hated the word, but he was seen as a messiah. He put those 11,000 on the gate, he transmitted his own extraordinary willpower into performers whose gifts as players may have been bigger than his own. Maybe he was in that sense a manager, rather than a coach, who had one trick, this high-octane ability to motivate, and to keep motivating players even when they knew in their souls that their defence was unplanned, inadequate, untrustworthy.

Journalists are supposed to be unbiased witnesses, but I say without hesitation that watching Kevin Keegan breathe life into Newcastle gave me more enjoyment from a game that is rapidly becoming a business than any other team in the past decade. Yet while so many of us were thrilled by and admired his work, it was becoming inescapable that he might not possess the knowledge, the luck, actually to land the prize.

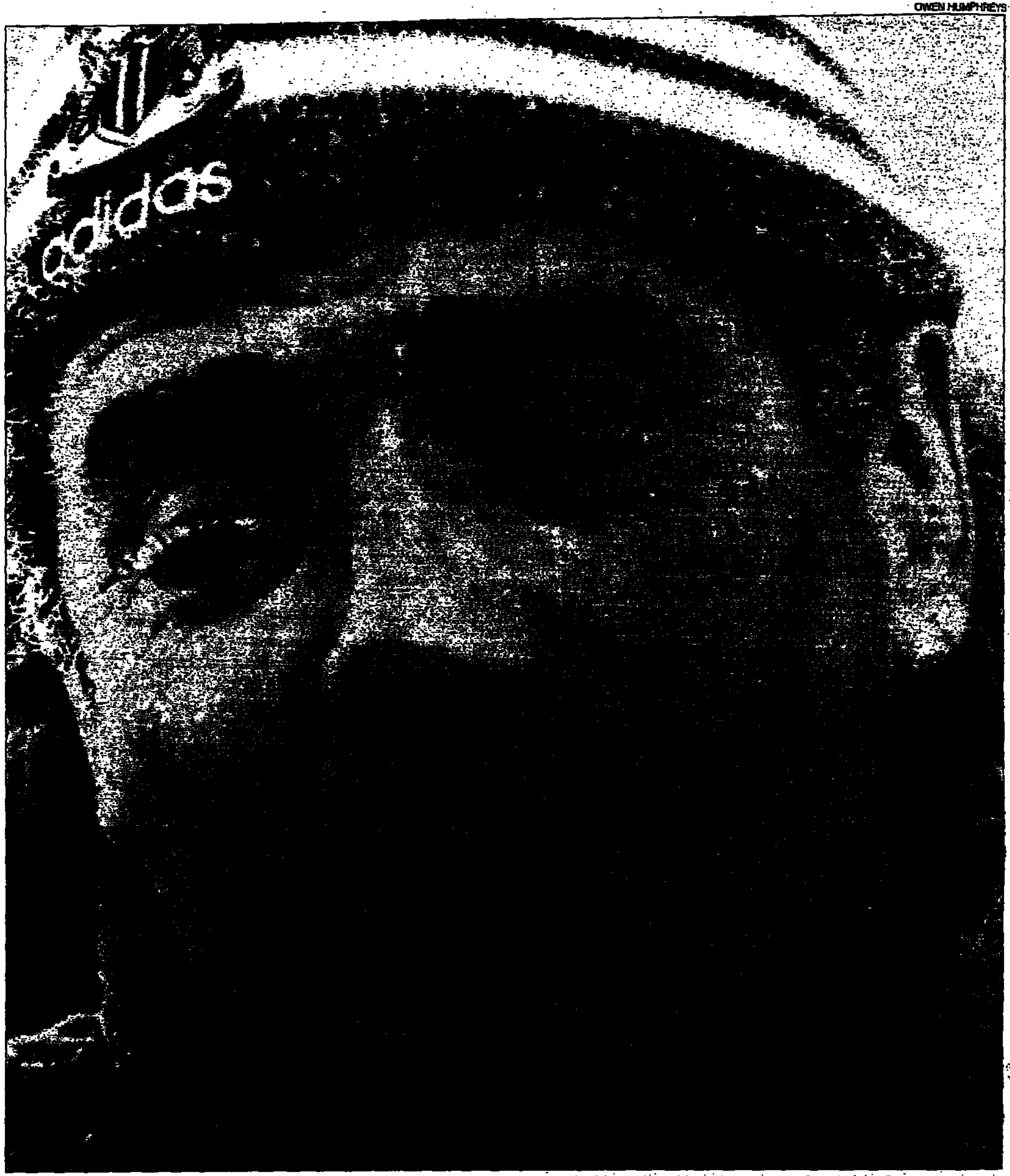
Without that, in the modern winner-take-all arena, all, sadly, is lost. It is a shallow and stupid way of viewing a league in which 20 teams compete and only one can triumph. The Keegan years have ended at Newcastle with the club finishing in the top six of England's top league for four seasons consecutively; Newcastle United had not achieved that since 1910. That is the measure of his influence.

Having spent eight years out of the game, some of it on the golf course in Marbella, much more of it chasing around the world, burning energy as ever in his various business deals, Keegan came back to his game refreshed and ready to burn some more.

Those of us paid to meet these managers within seconds of victory or defeat have seen Kenny Dalglish, Steve Coppell and others admit that the emotional inner turmoil just cannot be borne season after season without respite. It makes Alex Ferguson an exception, a man who for ten years at Manchester United, and for years at Aberdeen before that, actually hungered for the attrition, the obsession of beating all rivals. Ferguson seems to weather it with permanent strength; but Emlyn Hughes, who was a contemporary of Dalglish and Keegan in the Liverpool team, commented yesterday: "Kevin was so bubbly 18 months ago. But he's aged 20 years in the last three months, just as Kenny did at Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers." The flame consumes them, burns them. But it is high-powered, high-salaried stress.

For Newcastle, the vacuum that affects so many people this morning, is the loss of a personality. For Dalglish and Cruyff, both temporarily out of the managerial chair, a call to Tyneside, maybe on a short win-or-bust mission, might prove impossible to ignore. And while Nigeria, of all places, has put Keegan on its list to manage the team to a World Cup triumph, there was a deafening silence, a lack of style, around Newcastle yesterday. Sir John Hall, the business partner in the Keegan adventure, was reported to be on holiday out of the country. It needed his forthright presence to stand up and assure the faithful that he and the club knew where it was going. No one did: either Keegan's replacement is already in mind, or the stand-ins, Terry McDermott and Arthur Cox, will be asked to give Keegan's team the necessary impetus. The Magpie, and the balloon, are down, but not out.

OWEN HUMPHREYS



Out in the cold: in Lapland last week, Keegan's face betrays the strain that led ultimately to his resignation as the Newcastle manager

Dalglish leads chasing pack

By David Maddock

DRIVING over the Redheugh Bridge towards St James' Park, the car radio offers still slightly disbelieving tributes to the end of Kevin Keegan's reign at Newcastle United. Suddenly, the skyline is dominated by the imposing edifice of the Newcastle Brewery, the sponsor of the club. A chimney that pierces the gloomy skies emits a plume of pure white smoke.

It was not the cardinals' meeting at St James' but the club's directors, and the head of their brand of passionate religion had not died, even though the reverence and funereal atmosphere in the city yesterday suggested otherwise. But, how ever hard it was to accept, Keegan had tendered his resignation from the position of manager.

It was left to Terry McDermott, his assistant, to attempt to offer an explanation for such a dramatic departure. There would be rumours, he said, about his private life, about his health. But the simple truth of the matter was that Keegan had stopped enjoying management and could not endure the pressure any longer.

Earlier in the day, Keegan had emphasised that it was his decision alone, and he had gone because he felt he could take the club no further. McDermott later hinted that the roots of the decision could be found in the failure to land the title last season.

"There are no secret reasons. The only reasons for Kevin leaving are those that he said himself, and that is the 100 per cent truth," McDermott said. "He wasn't pushed. Maybe it was burnout time after five years, there came a time when Kevin had to think about himself and his family. He didn't say it was the pressure as such, but I knew what he was saying, he wanted to take charge of everything, and in the end that took its toll on him."

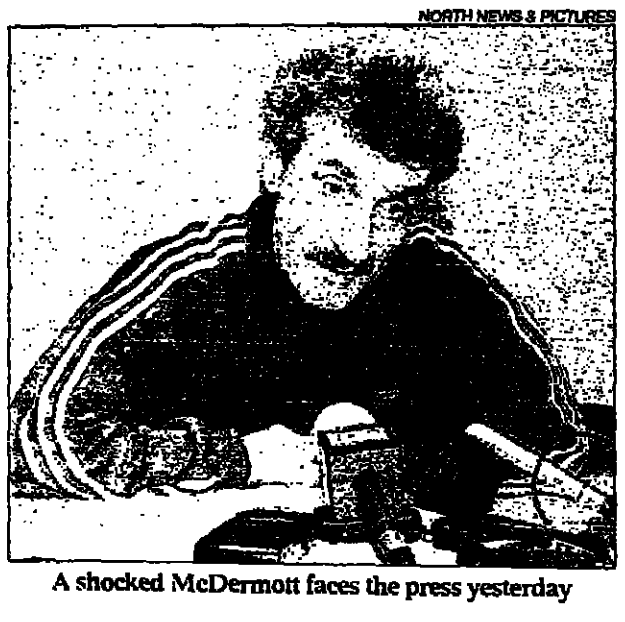
The bookmakers have Kenny Dalglish as 5-4 favourite, with John Toshack and Johan Cruyff as the next most likely candidates to succeed Keegan. The suggestion from within the club last night, despite a comment to the contrary from Dalglish, is that the man who succeeded Keegan as a player at Liverpool will do so again as manager at St James'.

Dalglish has taken up a new role with Rangers, but is keen to return to football in more than an advisory job. If offered the post, he will take it. Toshack is being linked strongly, too, but more through circumstance than actual evidence. He revealed at the weekend that he will leave Deportivo La Coruña in Spain, and Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, is holidaying in Spain.

McDermott said: "Whoever follows will not have the same charisma and popularity. There is no one in Europe who could follow him.

"Myself and Arthur Cox will take over for the time being, but only because Kevin asked us to. He has left us with quality players, and we will try desperately to win something to dedicate to his time as a manager. My own personal opinion is that he will not be coming back." The same was said of Dalglish, but he could be about to disprove such a theory.

NORTH NEWS & PICTURES



A shocked McDermott faces the press yesterday

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 986 in association with
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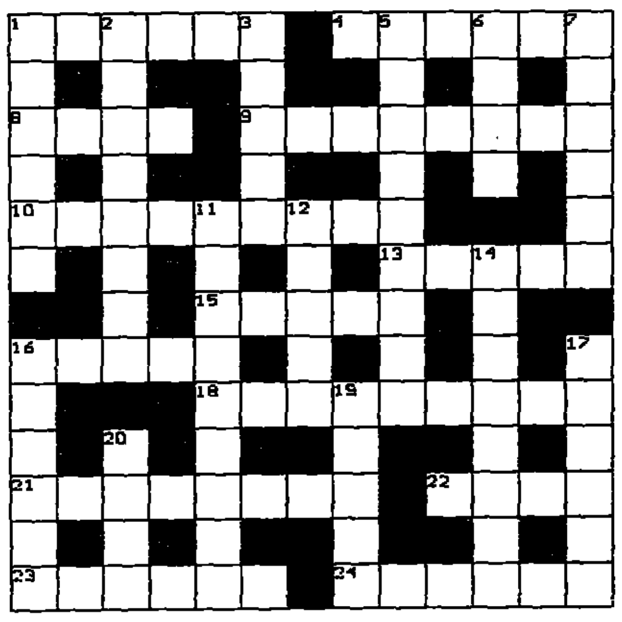

ACROSS
1 Bound: source (6)
4 One recording game progress (6)
8 Make one's cross (4)
9 Little earth-heap in lawn (8)
10 Known only to experts (9)
13 British soldier *(colloq.)* (5)
15 Run after (5)
16 Bishop's hat (5)
18 Impressive public show (9)
21 Quixote's lady (8)
22 Scot. tribesman; sounds like *chose* (4)
23 Amazement (6)
24 Furtive-looking (6)

DOWN
1 Unmerciful (6)
2 Saying little (8)
3 Welsh peninsula: officer of *Henry V* (5)
5 Capable; adequate (9)
6 Cut (corn) (4)
7 Revolving: charitable club (6)
11 Undue (9)
12 Bird: lifting device (5)
14 Naughty behaviour (8)
16 Leaf-attacking fungus (6)
17 Mil. guard (6)
19 Disorganisation (5)
20 Scottish valley (4)

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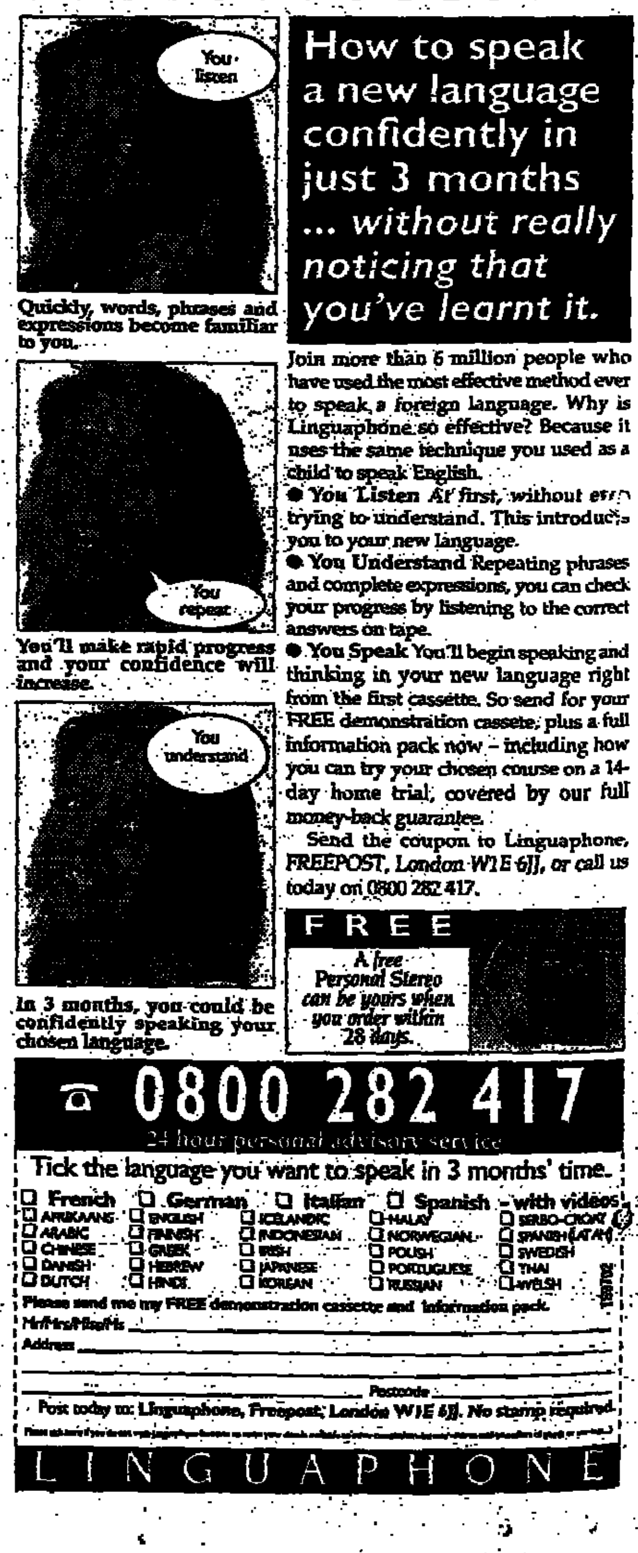
SOLUTION TO NO 985
ACROSS: 1 Nordic 5 Nubile 8 Avid 9 Militant 10 Grievous 12 Honk 13 Mercia 15 Arrive 17 Ugly 19 Enticing 21 North Sea 23 Plum 24 Stolen 25 Drivel
DOWN: 2 Obverse 3 Dodge 4 Come of age 5 Nil 6 Butcher 7 Lenin 11 Smart card 14 Crystal 16 Venture 18 Grout 20 Capri 22 Sin



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